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CSSR DELEGATION ARRIVES FOR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

LD242218 Kabul in Dari to Europe 1730 GMT 24 Apr 80

[Text] A Czechoslovak party-government delegation led by Jindrich Polednik, secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee, arrived in Kabul this afternoon at the invitation of the Peoples Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan to participate in celebrations marking the second anniversary of the Sawr Revolution.

The CSSR party-government delegation was welcomed at Kabul international airport by Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the Politburo of the PDPA Central Committee, deputy of the Revolutionary Council Presidium, deputy prime minister and minister of planning; Shah Mohammad Dost, foreign minister; Mahmud Barialay, member of the PDPA Central Committee and member of the Revolutionary Council; 'Abdol Hadi Mokammel, political deputy; 'Abdol Razaq, chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry and the ambassador and members of the CSSR Embassy.

Members of the delegation include Marlo Laco, deputy premier and (Vaclav Kuba), member of the CPCZ international affairs department.

AFP REPORTS CLASH BETWEEN SOVIET, AFGHAN OFFICERS

OW232029 Hong Kong AFP in English 2024 GMT 23 Apr 80

[Text] Islamabad, April 23 (AFP)--Sixty Soviet and Afghan officers, including two Afghan Army majors, were killed in a clash in the Jalalabad officers' mess recently, the Pakistani news agency PPI reported here today. PPI, quoting a report from across the border, said the armed clash occurred after a heated argument in which two Afghan Army officers expressed "strong resentment" to Soviet officers against their "indiscriminate bombing" of the Khogiani area of Jalalabad.

"Hundreds of innocent civilians" were killed in the bombing, PPI said.

Large scale desertion of Afghan Army men resentful of Soviet occupation of their country has "reduced the Afghan Armed Forces by more than 50 percent," the news agency said. It said that this situation was causing a big drain on Soviet manpower as "more and more Russian troops are being sucked into combat" with Moslem freedom fighters in guerrilla warfare throughout Afghanistan.

Beside resorting to conscription to make up for the troop shortage, the Afghan Government was arresting relatives of the deserters to force their return to barracks, PPI said. The agency said that measures to enlist people for the armed forces were failing and that Moslem fighters in norther Afghanistan, who control most of the area, had agreed to fight under a unified command.

They were engaged in "fierce fighting" in Zargun in Herat Province and had cut the Herat-Baghdis road, disrupting all traffic in the area, PPI said.

GAS SALES TO SOVIET UNION DISCUSSED

WA231940 Kabul NEW TIMES in English 6 Apr 80 p 3

[Text] During 1980 Afghanistan will export from Jarqduq and Gogerdak gas fields, 2.325 billion cubic metres gas to Soviet Union, which is estimated to bring, on market rate, some $200 million. This is an outstanding figure as far as country's revenue source is concerned.

A source of National Petroleum Company talking to a BAKHTAR reporter further said: More than $82 million were obtained from sale of gas to Soviet Union and more than Afs. 35 million from the sale of the same within the country during 1979.

Similarly, as a result of joint efforts of local engineers and those from friendly country USSR, at present a total of 14 million tons extractable petroleum has been estimated in northern parts of the country. Only the sale of 30,000 tons crude during current Afghan year to local consumers will fetch some Afs. 200 million.

Talking about the activities of National Petroleum Company the source said as for natural gas, some 22 billion cubic metres, has been determined in Yateem Taq and in Khwaja Gogerdak 48.5 billion cubic metres, Getriev, in the layers at the depth of 1900 metres, which require refining.

In the lower basin of Khwaja Gogerdak some 18 billion cubic metres gas, is determined.

Similarly, reserves, amounting to 2.5 billion cubic metres of sulphorised gas, in Khwaja Burhan area of Jowzjan Province, and some 21 billion cubic metres in Jargduq are determined and prospecting work in Jowzjan Province continues.

Replying another question the source said: In 1967 the ground was prepared, with the economic and technical cooperation of Soviet Union, for exploitation of gas in Khwaja Gogerdak. Further development of Khwaja Gogerdak was made possible with Soviet assistance through digging of 29 extraction wells and construction of gas complex, extension of pipeline, 88 kms long, with 320 mm diametre from gas field to the thermo-power plant of Mazare Sharif. The 103 kms long pipeline with 820 mm diametre was completed in 1967 from gas field to Afghan-Soviet border, making the export of gas to Soviet Union possible.

By using gas from the same gas field as raw material the Mazar chemical fertiliser plant is able to produce more than 105 tons urea. The thermo-power plant of Mazare Sharif, generating 36,000 kws power per hour, is also run by the same gas.

From the commencement of exploitation the Khwaja Gogerdak gas field, one of the most economically useful mineral projects of the country, until the end of 1979 a total of some 30.4 billion cubic metre gas, which constitutes 62 per cent of the total reserve, ie extracted.

In Jarqduq gas field, located 18 kms west of Shiberghan, and is undertaken with Soviet assistance since three years ago, became ready for exploitation after the new phase of the Sawr Revolution.

The Jarqduq gas field complex is linked through a gas pipe, 32 kms long and 720 mm diameters, with the old pipeline in Khwaja Gogerdak for export of gas to Soviet Union.

As is now a total of 14 million tons extractable petroleum is determined in different areas in northern parts of Afghanistan.

For many years now the crude from Angut oilfield is being utilised in drilling, as fuel for central heating and other purposes. The same crude is used for thermo-power plant of Kabul, instead of diesel.

Replying another question the source said construction of an oil refinery is envisaged in the first five year plan of DRA and soon a group of Soviet experts will arrive to help in carrying out preliminary surveys. The petroleum refinery plant is planned with a capacity of 500,000 tons crude oil a year and it will probably be located adjacent to present Jarqduq complex.

At the end of the source expressed profound appreciation for the disinterested assistance in all industrial and economic projects and other public sectors the beginning of which dates back to October Revolution. The fruitful cooperation is certainly valuable in ensuring economic independence which is a guarantee for political independence. The outcome of joint cooperations of Soviet engineers and experts is not only tangible in the field of gas and oil, it also stands out in all walks of life of our people and the friendship history of the two countries show that this fruitful cooperation will further evolve and develop.

EXPECTED REVENUES FROM NATURAL GAS DISCUSSED

WA231850 Kabul NEW TIMES in English 25 Mar 80 p 4

[Text] Kabul, March 25, (BAKHTAR)--2.325 billion cubic metres of natural gas will be exported from Khwaja Gogerdak and Jarqduq areas in 1980, fetching an estimated annual income of approximately $200,000,000, the largest single, export earning the country has ever had.

According to the National Oil Institute, more than $82,000,000 were earned from exporting gas to the Soviet Union and over Afs. 35 million from the sale of condensite at home in 1979.

As a result of the indefatigable efforts made by local and Soviet experts, oil reserves in northern Afghanistan have been estimated at 14 million tons and it is anticipated to earn about Afs. 200 million from the sale of 30,000 tons of condensite in 1980.

North, north-western and south-western parts of Afghanistan constitute interesting areas as far as oil and gas deposits are concerned but so far exploratory drilling has been carried out only in north and north-western parts on a rather large scale.

After geological and topographical survey of Angut near Sare Pul, Jowzjan Province in 1955 and with drilling the first exploratory well in that area, gas and oil indications were observed but systematic drilling began there in 1959 with the Soviet technical and financial aid.

AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY TO BE PURCHASED FROM USSR

WA231950 Kabul NEW TIMES in English 9 Apr 80 p 4

[Text] Kabul, April 8, (BAKHTAR)--In pursuance of the DRA Government revolutionary policy and the objectives of the first agricultural conference regarding farm mechanisation and providing related services, the agreement for purchase of 103-hoe ploughs and one hundred 17-hoe cultivators as well as the protocol for technical services were signed separately between the Agricultural Development Bank and a representative of the Tractor-Export Company of Soviet Union.

Under the agreement, the above equipment worth Afs. 144,000 will reach DRA in the course of current Afghan year via Hairatan.

According to the agreement, farmers and cooperatives will be provided with technical services through the Agricultural Development Bank with the cooperation of the Soviet Tractor-Export Company in three stages, namely, distribution of tractors and other machinery, the guarantee period and the post-guarantee period.

Similarly, various work shops run by the above bank in Kabul, Qandahar, Helmand, Ghazni, Paktia, Nangarhar, Farah and Nimruz will be equipped with the cooperation of the Tractor-Export Company. The bank will take appropriate steps to provide technical services, after sale of farm implements, in Balkh, Qonduz, Baghlan and Herat provinces, with the cooperation of agricultural extension department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reforms.

The source added that the agreement provides for training of a number of technical personnel under the supervision of Soviet experts within the country and every year a few of them will be sent to Soviet Union to study engineering and technical services.

The agreements were signed in Kabul in the presence of Mohammad Hassan Payman, president of agricultural extension and production department, and Eng. Wahab Assefi, president of Agricultural Development Bank and deputy commercial attache of Soviet Embassy by Mohammad Qassem, vice-president of the Agricultural Development Bank and representative of the Soviet Tractor-Export Company and the related documents were exchanged.

EXPORTS TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA TO BE INCREASED

WA231900 Kabul NEW TIMES in English 5 Apr 80 p 1

[Text] Kabul, April 5 (BAKHTAR)--Members of the high-powered Afghan delegation headed by Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA CC [Central Committee] Politburo, vice president of RC [Revolutionary Council], deputy prime minister and minister of planning affairs of DRA returned to Kabul last Thursday after negotiating and signing agreements and protocols on economic, technical and scientific cooperation between the DRA and the Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia.

On its arrival at Kabul international airport, deputy minister of commerce, Abdus Salam, told the BAKHTAR reporter that following sincere and friendly talks with the delegation of the Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia on economic, technical and scientific cooperation, agreements were concluded between the two countries, signed on behalf of Afghanistan by Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand and for Czechoslovakia by Rudolf Rohlicek, member of the Central Committee of the Czechoslovak Communist Party and deputy prime minister on April 1, 1980.

Under these agreements, the Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia will help the DRA to finance the thermo-power projects in Herat, the new cement plant at Pol-e Khomri to produce 1,400 tons of portland cement per day, supply the machinery needed by coal mines, install diesel electric power generators in a number of towns and deliver 550 lorries and tankers worth more than 100 million dollars under favourable terms. Likewise, construction machinery needed by the Helmand Valley project are also included in these agreements.

Similarly, he said, a protocol on grant in aid based on the technical and scientific agreement and another on exchange of goods for 1980 were signed by Abdus Salam, the DRA deputy minister of commerce and Jaroslavia Kobic, deputy Czechoslovakian minister for foreign trade while Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand and Rudolf Rohlicer were also present.

Under these protocols, the Government of Czechoslovakia will place at the disposal of Afghanistan three vehicle and machinery for mobile repair shops free of charge and a number of Czechoslovak experts will be sent to DRA to train Afghan personnel. Also Afghan goods to be exported to Czechoslovakia in 1980 will be increased by 25 percent under the protocol on exchange of goods between the two countries.

The deputy minister of commerce added the Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia will help DRA with hospital equipment and medical supplies worth 10 million krons.

Both delegations, he said, discussed matters related to economic and commercial cooperation in an atmosphere of extreme friendship and sincerity.

The Afghan delegation thanked its counterpart for the disinterested assistance provided by the Czechoslovak Government.

During the talks held between the two sides, he added, it was assessed that with the victory of the Sawr Revolution, especially after its new phase, the ground has been prepared for further fraternal cooperation between the DRA and the Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia. This spirit is reflected in the agreements and protocols signed between the two delegations, he declared.

Members of the high-powered Afghan delegation expressed their delight and thanks for the hospitality accorded them by the Czechoslovak authorities during their stay in that country.

SIX OIL RESERVES DISCOVERED IN NORTHERN REGIONS

WA2319300 Kabul NEW TIMES in English 23 Mar 80 p 3

[Text] As a result of explorations carried out so far six oil reserves with different amounts have been discovered in northern parts of Afghanistan, five located in Angut, Aqdarya, Bazari Kami, Qashkari and Zamradsai of Sari Pul and another one in Ali Gul district northwest of Maimana.

The technical and economic feasibility studies of Angut oil reserve has been completed on the basis of different variants, the establishment of an oil refinery with a capacity of 155,000 tons crude oil planned.

Thus, as a result of new studies carried out by local and foreign experts the oil reserves in area adjacent to Angut and Aqdarya was estimated at two million tons extractable oil. However, this was too small in amount to call for building a refinery with a capacity of 100,000 tons.

As new oil reserves were discovered and the amount of extractable oil from two reserves of Angut and Aqdarya was established at four million tons the increase in capacity of oil refinery to 200,000 tons a year was taken under study, especially after the discovery of four new oil reserves in Bazari Kami, Qashkari, Ali Gul, and Zamradsai.

Meanwhile the demand at local market for oil and its bi-products has increased considerably, thus it was deemed necessary to envisage the production capacity of the refinery at a higher rate and to carry out preliminary studies about its construction.

As a result of recent estimate of reserves of Qashkari oil field, one million tons oil can be extracted from it. Thus, the establishment of an oil refinery with a capacity of 500,000 tons a year is being discussed with the friendly country Soviet Union. Studies have been carried in this regard. [paragraph continues]

The samples of oil discovered have been sent to the Soviet Union for laboratory analysis to establish quality and quantity, after which it will be studied from economic and technical point of views.

Dr. Ansar Sikandari, head of planning department of oil and gas prospecting in northern Afghanistan, talking to a reporter of the Kabul NEW TIMES further said: The oil reserves in Bazari Kami and Ali Gul districts have not so far been established and exploration and prospecting in those areas continues.

Similarly, the establishment of an oil refinery with an annual capacity of 500,000 tons is planned in Jarqurq, Jowzjan Province.

Afghanistan is paying, annually, considerable amount in foreign exchange for import of petroleum products, thus utilisation of the oil and gas reserves in the country would greatly help the economic growth, said Dr. Sikandari.

APPOINTMENTS APPROVED BY COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

WA231840 Kabul NEW TIMES in English 31 Mar 80 p 4

[Text] Kabul, March 31, (BAKHTAR)--On the proposal of the concerned ministries, approval of Council of Ministers and endorsement of president and the Revolutionary Council and prime minister, the following appointments have been made:

Prime Ministry:

Zalmai Asef Popal as president of Public Administration Research Institute; Abdul Wakil Pakthiawal, as president of Manpower Administration and Abdul Aziz Ferough as member of the advisory board, Administration Reforms Department.

Ministry of Interior Affairs:

Muftahuddin Safi, as deputy minister.

Ministry of Education:

Dr. Faqir Mohammad Yaqubi as first deputy minister; Abdul Wadood Wafamal as president of Secondary Education Department; Zalmai as president of Teacher's Education Department; Ghulam Sakhi Hassan as president of Physical Education Department; Mohammad Nabi Gharwal as president of Employment Department; Abdul Ghafoor Talatum as vice president of Compilation and Translation Department; Saifuddin Ashrafi as vice president of Teachers' Education Department and Sher Mohammad Khawar as vice president of General Agency for Literacy Campaign.

Commerce Ministry:

Ali Ahmad as president of AFSTOR [Afghan-Soviet Joint Transportation Company]; Eng. Ahmad Shaheen as president of Khalq Export-Import Union; Mohammad Rafiq Mael as president of Carpet Exporters Guild; Mohammad Azam Sayee as president of Afghanistan Medicinal Herbs Company; Ahmad Wali Saighani as president of Raisin Exports Development Institute.

Out of the above appointment 12 are party members and five non-party men.

Further Appointments

WA231845 Kabul NEW TIMES in English 25 Mar 80 p 4

[Text] Kabul, March 25, (BAKHTAR)--According to the secretariat of the Council of Ministers the following appointments have been made in various ministries.

At the Ministry of Public Works, Eng. Hassan Ali Tayeb as deputy minister, Dr. Wali Mohammad Rasouli as president of Technical Board and Research and Dr. Faqir Mohammad Nekzad as president of Banayee Construction Unit.

At the Ministry of Communications, Khoda Dost Andar as president of Administration, Khoshal as president of Postal Department and Eng. Ghulam Jailani as president of Qandahar Communications Department.

At the Ministry of Mines and Industries, Dr. Qurban Ali Mansour as vice-president of the National Oil Institute, Dr. Temor Shah Barez as vice president of Sheberghan Gas Extraction and Transfer Department, Eng. Hafizullah Nawabi, as president of the National Oil Institute, Eng. Gul Mohammad as president of the Bagrami Textile Mills, Mohammad Fazel Delzada, as vice-president for Administration, the textile mills, Mohammad Ishaq Kawah, as president of Planning, Eng. Mohammad Qasem Popal, as vice president of Planning Department, Abdul Latif Balouchzada, as president of Administration, Dr. Mohammad Tahir Girwal as president of the Ainak copper mine project, Homayun Taj, as technical vice president of Mineral Survey Department, Dr. Habibullah Noori, as president of the Afghan Management Institute, Eng. Mohammad Nawab as president of the Qandahar fruit processing plant, Eng. Hayatullah, as president of the Kabul Woolen Mills.

From the above appointees, 10 are party and 9 non-party members.

NEW TRAINING COURSE FOR OFFICERS OPENED

WA231855 Kabul NEW TIMES in English 25 Mar 80 p 1

[Text] Kabul, March 25, (BAKHTAR)--A training course was opened yesterday morning for officers of the armed forces.

President of operations of the Ministry of Defence in his opening remarks drew the attention of the young army officers to their grave duties and responsibilities towards their homeland, people and the glorious Saur Revolution wishing them further success in wiping out the enemies and in the defence of national independence and sovereignty.

A few course attendants expressed their readiness for the realisation of the humanitarian aspirations of the revolutionary regime.

The course will last two months training 200 officers.

CERTIFICATES DISTRIBUTED TO MILITARY GRADUATES

WA231855 Kabul NEW TIMES in English 25 Mar 80 p 1

[Text] Kabul, March 25, (BAKHTAR)--Certificates to military short term training course graduates of division 8 were handed to them by the commander of the central garrison yesterday afternoon.

Following the recitation of a few verses from the holy Koran Major Khalilullah, commander of the central garrison in a speech drew the attention of the cadets to their grave duties in defending the territorial integrity, national sovereignty and independence of Afghanistan.

Afterwards the commander of division 8 delivered a long speech disclosing the conspiracies and plots of the enemies of Afghanistan.

Likewise the political and operational heads of division 8 talked about the gains of the Saur Revolution especially its new phase.

A source of the division 8 command said that the course lasted for three months and 83 cadets were graduated from it.

FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES MADE IN EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

WA231915 Kabul NEW TIMES in English 31 Mar 80 p 1

[Text] Kabul, March 31, (BAKHTAR)--The DRA Council of Ministers met in session at the headquarters of the Revolutionary Council on March 30 under the chairmanship of Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA CC [Central Committee], president of RC [Revolutionary Council] and prime minister, approving fundamental changes in educational system in Afghanistan based on the proposals submitted by the Ministry of Education.

1--Primary, intermediate, secondary and religious schools be opened throughout the country, the first having 4, the second 8 and the third 10 grades while religious schools will be organized according to previous arrangements.

2--The universal compulsory primary education will be effective in urban areas from 1980-81 to 1985-86 and in rural areas from 1980-81 to 1986-87.

3--The Ministry of Education is obligated to gear all educational school and pre-school activities to the new educational programmes from 1980-81 and implement this plan consistently within 10 years. The ministry is also expected to provide confirmed textbooks and teaching aids meet the growing requirements.

4--The ministry should extend methodical and financial aids to religious schools.

5--The ministry is expected to prepare and submit to the Council of Ministers regulations concerning intermediate schools by June 1, 1980.

6--Since future development of education depends, above all, on scientific and professional experiences as well as political and cultural outlooks of teachers, the Council of Ministers asks local authorities to provide the necessary conditions conducive to fruitful life and work and a regular rise in the standards of teachers. The ministry is also obligated to prepare and submit its proposals to the council by April 21, 1980, regarding the establishment in Kabul of a central institute to train pedagogic cadres in special fields.

7--The ministry will also prepare and submit to the council its proposals about the founding in Kabul of a central pedagogical research centre by May 1, 1980 in order to better formulate and implement curicula while the centre is expected to absorb pedagogy experts.

8--The ministry will see to the building of new school premises, extension of financial aids to those already built, guarding against disorder and protection of existing supplies and equipment.

9--The ministry is also instructed to prepare and submit to the council its proposals within six months concerning production of audio-visual aids, laboratory equipment and supplies, work-shop tools and building various playgrounds. The ministry should envisage the construction of special plants for this purpose.

10--The responsibility for implementing the primary compulsory education rests with the ministry and local authorities.

11--The ministry is instructed to prepare and submit to the council a plan related to its reorganization and new organizational chart.

12--The Ministry of Education in collaboration with the Ministry of Information and Culture will prepare and broadcast over radio and TV matters of interest to schools on education and subjects for parents on upbringing their children in a healthy manner.

According to another report, the Council of Ministers during the same session approved the law concerning consumer goods and regulations on budgetary accounts, prepared by the Ministry of Justice. The texts of the above will appear in the official gazette.

The council approved the proposal made by the Ministry of Finance on reduction suggested by the Ministry of Education in kindergarten entrance fees from Afs. 2,500 to Afs. 1,500.

The Ministry of Mines and Industries was instructed to prepare a complete inventory of all minerals on sale and conduct future sales under the supervision of a mixed team from the ministries of mines and industries, finance and commerce.

The council also approved the proposals submitted by the Ministry of Commerce that the Ministry of Finance transfer to the account of the government monopolies in Da Afghanistan Bank from its 1980-81 subsidy accounts Afs. 1 billion to open a letter of credit.

The prefabricated housing plant and the housing cooperative were instructed not to charge the government employees cooperative for the two sales shops built by the two organizations.

The council, likewise approved the proposal submitted by the Ministry of Communications to utilize the excess equipment of various development project to enhance communications in various provinces.

As proposed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reforms, the tracts set aside for state farms shall be handed over to the above ministry to establish mechanised farms.

The council approved the proposal submitted by the Ministry of Education that the first teachers congress be held in DRA between May 10 and 12, 1980 with 400 delegates taking part in it.

The council also issued instructions that Afs. 1,970,000 be spent on completing two kindergartens, one at Khair Khana and the other at Rahman Mena.

It also endorsed a proposal forwarded by the Ministry of Mines and Industries concerning the purchase of merino and New Zealand wool for the Qandahar woolen textile mills according to regulations on foreign purchases prepared by the Ministry of Commerce.

According to separate proposals submitted by the ministries of public health, education, mines and industries, the equipment and supplies imported for the blood bank will be exempt from custom duties. Meanwhile, the foreign advisory experts working with the construction department of the Ministry of Education and the Czechoslovak experts cooperating with coal mines in the north will no longer pay any taxes.

BANKING INSTITUTE OPENS AT DA AFGHANISTAN BANK

WA231845 Kabul NEW TIMES in English 24 Mar 80 p 4

[Text] Kabul, March 24, (BAKHTAR)--A banking institute was opened at Da Afghanistan Bank Sunday where the bank personnel will receive training.

Seventy five employees of Kabul banks have been enrolled in the institute.

The ceremony was opened with recitation of a few verses from the holy Koran followed by national anthem. Afterward, second deputy governor of Da Afghanistan Bank spoke on the role of the institute in better organising banking affairs. He said it is a matter of extreme pleasure that in the new phase of Saur Revolution, such an institute has been established.

The opening ceremony was also addressed by head of Da Afghanistan Bank courses.

A source of Da Afghanistan Bank said those enrolled in the institute are college and highschool graduates, working presently in the banks, and have been accepted after an entry examination.

The institute is financed by banks and economic faculty lecturers are teaching the course.

The institute established at the initiative of Da Afghanistan Bank will last for one year.

FLOODS WASH AWAY HOMES IN HERAT PROVINCE

WA231840 Kabul NEW TIMES in English 24 Mar 80 p 1

[Text] Herat, March 24, (BAKHTAR)--Four hundred houses were washed away as a result of March 20th floods at Enjeel, Herat Province.

No loss of life has been reported.

A team is to determine the extent of damage.

According to another report from Helmand during recent floods in Helmand Province damaged Helmand Valley development project sewerage systems in many parts as well as Darweshan diversion dam and crops.

A project source said losses are estimated at millions of Afghanis.

FLOODS CAUSE DAMAGE IN SAMANGAN PROVINCE

WA231835 Kabul NEW TIMES in English 6 Apr 80 p 1

[Text] Kabul, April 6, (BAKHTAR)--Several houses, a large agricultural area, a few orchards, and a grain market were destroyed and a number of shops and inns were damaged by floods in Khulm, Samangan Province.

The governor and security forces commander inspected various parts of Khulm, assigning a team to estimate the losses.

The road between Khulm and Mazar was blocked with rubble but reopened by workers of the road maintenance unit with the cooperation of inhabitants.

Similarly, 40 houses and three mosques were wrecked at Dehdadi, Balkh Province, last week by floods but no human losses were reported.

The Afghan Red Crescent Society has been distributing relief supplies to the flood victims and a team is to determine the losses.

FREEDOM OF RELIGION SAID TO EXIST FOR ALL SECTS, RITES

WA2318300 Kabul NEW TIMES in English 22 Mar 80 p 2

[Editorial: "Real Religious Freedom"]

[Text] Since the victory of the new phase of the glorious Sawr Revolution, our people have been really enjoying religious freedom.

Those who watched the proceedings of hoisting 'Ali's standard in Kabul on TV are convinced that the revolutionary government has been sincere in what it says.

Similar ceremonies are held on a much larger scale in Mazar-i-Sharif on Afghan New Year Day, however. And the proceedings will no doubt be shown on TV shortly.

In order to familiarize our outside readers with the current situation so that they may find the tremendous difference in the atmosphere, one has to begin with 'Ali.

The Prophet's cousin and son-in-law, 'Ali has done a great deal for Islam. Only at Ohud battle, he sustained 80 serious injuries inflicted on him by the overwhelming anti-Islamic forces. Actually, without 'Ali to protect Muhammad, Islam would have faced formidable troubles.

As the supreme commander of Muhammad's forces, he won great laurels for Islam. Nobody however physically strong and skilled in warfare had been able to defeat that rather short man using an equally short sword called "Zulfeqar", nor any steed outrun his stallion known as "Duldul".

But 'Ali was not only a great warrior. When Muhammad was building the mosque at Medina where he is buried now, 'Ali actually worked as a labourer. Even before that, that is after Muhammad had emigrated from Mecca to Medina, 'Ali used to work as a hired hand and spent most of his meagre daily wages to keep his father-in-law and leader alive.

As a scholar, he topped almost all those gradually gathering around the Prophet after their conversion into Islam. 'Ali during that particular period when Arabs in what is the present-day Saudi Arabia buried their daughters alive due to sheer ignorance, had mastered the knowledge prevalent at the time and made much contribution to the development of algebra.

Muhammad had said time and again that he was the "city of knowledge" while 'Ali was "its gate". Also, he shared the same flesh and blood with 'Ali. The latter comment of course did not mean that they were only related by blood. It was indicative of their extreme closeness.

After Muhammad died, there arose a dispute between Moslems over who was most qualified to succeed him. It so happened that a few of Muhammad's companions elected Abubakr as his successor due to the latter's seniority. This outraged some who protested to this act and the protesters came to be known as "Shiahs". The others who had accepted what had happened are known as "Sunnies".

While the Shiah enjoy a majority in Iran, they are in minority in Afghanistan. However, both sects believe in the same God, same Prophet, same Koran and share the same history and culture. They only differ in matter related to succession and minor rites concerning prayer and so on.

Under the Yahya Dynasty, the Shiahs were discriminated against in almost every sphere in Afghanistan. For instance, their high school graduates were not allowed to enrol in law college lest they could open their way into the foreign service. And their top graduates of other colleges were often debarred from higher studies abroad. There also existed a job discrimination in the case of Shiah civil servants while only a few of them could reach high military ranks.

Under Amin, the hangman, almost all Shiah leaders were arrested, some of them severely tortured and others massacred. That charlatan had once gathered a few scores of Hazara shopkeepers to listen to one of his harangues, trying to convince or actually mislead the public opinion that it was he who treated the poor downtrodden Shiahs on an equal footing.

But the real equality between Shiahs and Sunnies and freedom of rites for all sects has become something tangible now, thanks to the broadmindedness of the revolutionary government.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW GOVERNMENT APPOINTMENTS

LD242218 Kabul in Dari to Europe 1730 GMT 27 Apr 80

[Text] The Secretariat of the Council of Ministers reports that on the basis of the proposals of the related ministries and the approval of the Council of Ministers and the chairman of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister, the following appointments have been made:

In the Prime Ministry: Gholam Sakhi Hasani, as the general director of [word indistinct]

In the Ministry of Public Works: Mohammad Akbar Ziarmal, as the administrative deputy at the department of road works and [word indistinct], and Eng Soltan Husain as the member of the board of technical research.

In the Ministry of Mines and Industries: Mir Ershad Husain, as advisor for industrial affairs.

In the Ministry of Commerce: 'Ali Ahmad Reza'i, as the chairman of the Hairatan Port enterprise.

In the Ministry of Frontier Affairs: (Salmai Kalin) as the general director of administration.

From among these new six appointments, three are party and three are nonparty appointments.

BULGARIAN TRADE DELEGATION ENDS VISIT; PROTOCOL SIGNED

Trade Protocol

BK250555 Dacca Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 24 Apr 80

[Text] Bangladesh and Bulgaria have signed the seventh barter trade protocol envisaging the exchange of goods worth $11 million each way. Commerce Secretary Matiur Rahman and visiting Bulgarian Deputy Minister for Foreign Trade Georgi Vutev signed the agreement in Dacca this evening on behalf of their respective governments.

The agreement, which will be valid for one year, shows an increase of 47.5 percent over the previous barter trade protocol. Under the agreement, Bangladesh will import pig iron, (?spirits), soda ash, pharmaceutical raw materials, drugs and medicines, veterinary medicines, radio transmitters and spares as well as electronic equipment from Bulgaria; while Bulgaria will import raw jute, jute goods, rubber, tea, barbed wire [words indistinct], wires and cables, rayon yarn, handicrafts and cutlery, safety matches, hardboard and [word indistinct], readymade garments, specialized [words indistinct] copper wire. The two sides also signed an agreed minutes for the trade talks.

Departure 25 Apr

BK250557 Dacca Overseas Service in English 0445 GMT 25 Apr 80

[Text] The Bulgarian trade delegation led by Deputy Minister for Foreign Trade Georgi Vutev left Dacca today for home after its 4-day visit to Bangladesh. The delegation signed the seventh barter trade protocol and also held talks on further expansion of trade with Bangladesh.

The leader of the delegation yesterday called on Deputy Prime Minister Jamaluddin Ahmed and Minister for Information and Broadcasting Habibullah Khan. They discussed matters of mutual interest.

JAPANESE SPECIAL ENVOY ARRIVES IN DACCA FOR 5-DAY VISIT

BK250945 Dacca Domestic Service in Bengali 0830 GMT 25 Apr 80

[Text] Japan is to give 100,000 tons of rice to Bangladesh this year. This was stated by special envoy of the Japanese Government Takashi Hayakawa on his arrival in Dacca today on a 5-day visit to Bangladesh.

Talking to newsmen at the airport Hayakawa said that Japan is eager to further promote economic relations with Bangladesh. Describing his visit as exploratory, he said that this was his fifth visit since 1972, and during his stay in Bangladesh he will try to find new ways of further expanding peaceful cooperation between the two friendly countries.

Hayakawa said that he will discuss with Bangladesh leaders major international issues. In this connection, referring to the Afghan and Iranian crisis, he said that Japan is keen to promote world peace and solidarity with the close cooperation of Bangladesh. He described the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan as a great threat to the relaxation of tension.

Hayakawa, who is also the chairman of the Japan-Bangladesh friendship committee, will call on President Ziaur Rahman. He will also meet Speaker Golam Hafiz.

EIGHT CABINET MINISTERS RESIGN FROM POSTS

BK2411720 Dacca Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 24 Apr 80

[Text] President Ziaur Rahman tonight relieved five ministers, two state ministers and one deputy minister of their responsibility at their own request. An official announcement in Dacca a short while ago said those who have been relieved of their responsibility are: Dr M.N. Huda [minister of finance], Dr Begum Amina Rahman [minister of women's affairs], Khondakar Abdul Hamid [minister for youth development], Abdur Rahman Biswas [minister of jute], Mohammad Abdul Haq [minister of land administration and land reform], Dewan Taimur Reza Chowdhury, Mirza Abdul Halim and Arif Mainuddin.

Further Details

OW242314 Hong Kong AFP in English 2255 GMT 24 Apr 80

[Text] Dacca, April 24 (AFP)--Eight ministers of President Ziaur Rahman's 41-member cabinet were "relieved" of their responsibilities, radio Bangladesh in its latest bulletin tonight announced.

The ministers who resigned today include five full ministers, two state ministers and one deputy minister. Among them were Finance Minister Dr. M.N. Huda, Jute Minister Abdur Rahman Biswas, Youth Development Minister Khondakar Abdul Hamid, Women Affairs Minister Dr. Mrs. Amina Rahman, Land Revenue Minister Mr. Abdul Haq, State Minister Mirza Abdul Halim, State Minister Dewan Taimur Reza Chowdhury and Deputy Minister Arif Mainuddin.

Political observers here believe that the announcement tonight is the first phase of a series of major changes President Zia is contemplating in his government. More changes are likely to be announced in the next few days. The announcement which came after a day-long speculation in the capital did not give any details. It only said the ministers were relieved of responsibilities "at their own requests." Informed sources said the eight ministers were called in the morning at the presidential palace Bangabhaban and were advised to submit their resignations.

In January last, Deputy Prime Minister Moudud Ahmed and State Minister Nur Mohammad were similarly "relieved of their responsibilities."

Informed sources said President Zia along with his top aides, including Vice-President Justice Abdus Sattar, had been in Bangabhaban throughout the day working out details of the changes in the government, which had been a matter of speculations in the capital since last month.

Sources said Finance Ministry vacated by technocrat Dr. M.N. Huda had already been given to Commerce Minister Saifur Rahman, who left for Rangoon this afternoon leading a trade delegation. Dr. Huda reportedly handed over charge to Mr. Rahman at a simple function this morning.

At Bangladesh secretariat, Dr. Huda is likely to continue as one of President Zia's advisers. The Commerce Ministry is likely to go to Mr. Tanvir Ahmed Siddiqui, M.P. and president of federation of the chamber of commerce and industry. A number of new ministers are expected to be inducted in a day or two and a major reshuffle in the portfolios are likely to be announced shortly.

GOVERNMENT STATEMENT ON U.S. HOSTAGE RESCUE ATTEMPT

BK251352 Hong Kong AFP in English 1315 GMT 25 Apr 80

[Text] New Delhi, 25 April (AFP)--India has expressed "concern" and regretted the reported American abortive military attempt to rescue the hostages in Tehran. A Foreign Office spokesman said in a statement that "India cannot condone military adventurism of the type inherent in the attempt by the U.S., which can have large-scale and long term negative implications for stability and peace in the west Asian region."

The statement said the U.S. action "has only tended to complicate the situation further and to heighten tensions." India, the spokesman said, was opposed to the use of force and military means in resolving international issues.

"The Government of India hopes that all parties would still act with restraint in dealing with the critical situation that exists in the relations between the U.S. and Iran," he said in the statement. India earnestly hoped that the U.S. "will desist from resorting to any further military means in dealing with the situation."

The spokesman also expressed the hope that the parties concerned "will respect the imperative need for peaceful negotiations and will not act in contravention of the requirements of international law and humanity." He at the same time said that India was against the violation of diplomatic immunities and treaties for the safety of the lives of diplomats, expressing sympathies in this context with the predicament of the U.S. hostages.

SOVIET AGRICULTURE MINISTER VISITS NORTHERN STATE

BK241022 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 24 Apr 80

[Text] Soviet Agriculture Minister V.K. Mesyats has praised India for its spectacular achievement in food production. Speaking to newsmen in Karnal in the northern state of Haryana, he said application of scientific technology and efforts of scientists have helped India raise its food production. Observing that India possesses a very high scientific talent, he noted that the country has developed excellent varieties of wheat, maize and cotton in a very short time.

Agriculture Minister Rao Birendra Singh, who also was present, expressed the hope that the visit of the Soviet team will further strengthen the research programs between the two countries.

SUPPLY OF RAILWAY CARS TO VIETNAM COMPLETED

BK250337 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 Apr 80

[Text] The last consignment of 14 railway passenger coaches of meter gauge has been dispatched to Vietnam. They were shipped from Madras Harbor yesterday. The state-owned public equipment corporation had earlier supplied 36 coaches to that country during the last 3 months under a 50-coach contract. The coaches were manufactured by the Perambur integral coach factory on schedule to suit Vietnamese specifications. Under the contract signed in 1978, the corporation is also to supply 980 wagons, 1,000 bogeys and other spare parts. Of this 575 wagons have already been shipped.

DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING UNREST IN NORTHEASTERN STATES

Curfew at Border

BK250946 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 25 Apr 80

[Text] An indefinite curfew is to come into force from 2200 to dawn within a belt of a 160 kms of the India-Bangladesh border of Assam. According to an official notification in Silchar, the step has been taken as a precautionary measure to check the entry of unauthorized persons and to curb smuggling.

Delhi: Assam 'Under Control'

BK241612 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Apr 80

[Text] Mr H.C. Sarin, principal adviser to the governor of the northeastern states, said in Gauhati this evening that the situation in Assam is under control and the administration is keeping a constant vigil on the developments. Referring to the efforts of political leaders and prominent citizens to have talks reopened, Mr Sarin expressed the hope that a dialogue would be useful.

The situation in the curfew bound Oil India headquarters at Narangi and other places in Assam is reported to be quiet but tense. Work in central and state government offices and banks in Gauhati was affected today due to picketing. Essential services and all modes of communications were exempted from the purview of picketing. Some arrests have been made.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA says the police made a lathi charge on a group of people at Tenali, 3 kms from Narangi this morning to prevent them from marching toward Narangi.

AFP Report on Demonstration

BK241142 Hong Kong AFP in English 1134 GMT 24 Apr 80

[Text] Gauhati, Assam (India) 24 Apr (AFP)--Police today baton charged a 300-strong crowd at Tenali, 3 km from Assam oil installations at Narangi, eyewitnesses said. The marchers, mostly women and children, were proceeding toward the curfew-bound oil installations headquarters when they were stopped the police.

Eyewitnesses said an unspecified number of people sustained injuries and ran through the paddy fields for cover. Police chased them and took into custody about 60 of them for defying a government which bans assembly of more than five persons in public places. Additional paramilitary enforcements were rushed to the scene to prevent further trouble.

Meanwhile, unconfirmed reports here said that the Assam demonstrators were planning to take out a massive procession by late afternoon to Narangi to protest against the federal government's crackdown on the Assam agitators.

Gandhi Willing for Talks

BK250339 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 Apr 80

[Text] Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi has made it clear that the doors are open for talks for a solution of the foreigner's question in Assam. She told a delegation of political leaders from the state who met her that she had only suggested that a beginning could be made for the deportation of foreigners on the basis of 1971.

This should not be construed as if she had set up a cutoff date. Mrs Gandhi urged them to persuade the leaders of the Assam agitation to call it off so that efforts are renewed to find a solution in an atmosphere of peace.

Meanwhile the All-Assam Students Union, in a statement in Gauhati, said they are willing for resumption of talks with the government if it does not stick to 1971 as the cutoff year and a new base year is indicated for a solution to the problem.

Assam Students Hopeful

BK250948 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 25 Apr 80

[Text] The All-Assam Students Union has said that it is hopeful of finding a solution to the problem of foreign nationals through negotiations. In a joint statement in Gauhati the president said the acting general secretary of the union said that the government has indicated a new formula by giving up the idea of fixing 1967 as cutoff year. They said there is some prospects of resuming the talks, although the students union is not prepared to entertain any stipulation about the suspension of the movement.

Meanwhile, official sources in Gauhati said that picketing today in front of the central and state government offices was peaceful and employees voluntarily abstained from their duties in almost all places.

Mizoram Students Demand Deportation

BK250922 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 25 Apr 80

[Text] In Mizoram, the newly formed Students Action Committee has urged the center to restore lasting peace and insure jobs to all eligible Mizoram youth in the union territory. At its executive meeting in Aijal, the committee has pleaded for deletion of names of foreign nationals from the electoral rolls and their deportation.

CHANGES IN STATE ASSEMBLY ELECTION DATES ANNOUNCED

BK241610 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Apr 80

[Text] The election commission has announced the change in the polling schedule of the coming [state] assembly elections. Polling will now be held on the 28th and the 31st of May. The earlier dates were the 27th and the 30th. Chief Election Commissioner Sakhdhar says this has been done to accommodate the sentiments of the Muslim community who felt that the 30th is a Friday and their main prayer day and it would be inconvenient to exercise their franchise on that day.

According to the new polling schedule, Punjab, Orissa and Bihar will have a 1-day poll on the 31st of May instead of the 30th. The remaining six states--Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu--will go to the polls on the 28th and the 31st. The rest of the election program remains unchanged.

HAQ URGES SPEEDY WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS FROM AFGHANISTAN

BK250407 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0100 GMT 25 Apr 80

[Text] President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq, on the occasion of the silver jubilee of the Bandung conference, which began yesterday, has called for a quick end to the difficulties of the Afghan people by the speedy withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan.

In a greeting message to Indonesian President General Suharto on this occasion, the president said: Let us pledge our collective efforts for the creation of conditions in Afghanistan conducive to the voluntary return of over 700,000 refugees in safety and honor and the restoration of their inalienable right to decide their destiny without outside pressure and coercion.

Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq said: We cannot overlook the tragedy that has befallen one of the participants at Bandung--Afghanistan, which recently fell victim to massive military intervention by a superpower. He said there are certain parts of the globe, notably Palestine and southern Africa, where it has not yet been possible to implement the principles proclaimed at the Bandung conference.

GOVERNMENT DENIES ALLEGATION OF AFGHAN PUBLISHING HOUSE

BK250233 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 24 Apr 80

[Text] An official spokesman in Peshawar today contradicted a Radio Moscow broadcast alleging that a special publishing house with the name of Afghan and Islamic People's Institute has been set up in Peshawar.

AFGHAN REFUGEES IN PAKISTAN REPORTEDLY EXCEED 700,000

BK270231 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 24 Apr 80

[Text] According to ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN the maintenance of Afghan refugees who have come to Pakistan was at least 440 million year during the current calendar year [as received]. As of now the number of registered refugees has exceeded 700,000.

The expenditure on Afghan refugees is being financed from federal budgetary allocation and donations received for the president's relief fund. Up to January last, the government spent 140 million rupees. Another grant of 57 million rupees was released to the provincial governments of the Northwest Frontier Province and Baluchistan early this month. A majority of the refugees are women while men and children constitute 40 per cent. Of the women, 20 per cent are widows whose husbands were killed in the struggle for the freedom of Afghanistan.

AGHA SHAHI LEAVES FOR LIBYA 25 APR

BK250222 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 25 Apr 80

[Text] Foreign Affairs Adviser Agha Shahi left Karachi for Tripoli this morning for bilateral talks with the Libyan foreign minister. He will also exchange views on the forthcoming Islamic foreign ministers conference.

MORNING NEWS REPORTS ON SOVIET NUCLEAR AID TO INDIA

WA241800 Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 9 Apr 80 p 1

[Text] Islamabad, April 8--The Soviet Union is prepared to provide more assistance to India for the construction of nuclear power plant, All-India Radio reported.

Quoting Soviet officials, a report from Moscow said that the possibilities of further co-operation between the two countries were brought out by the experts and officials of India and the Soviet Union who would decide the type and quantity of the assistance.

The Soviet Union has already agreed to supply 250 tons of heavy water for the Rajasthan nuclear power plant.

NEW APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED IN RAWALPINDI

BK221608 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 22 Apr 80

[Text] It was officially announced in Rawalpindi today that Punjab Governor Lt Gen Sawar Khan has been promoted to the rank of general effective 1 May and has been appointed the vice chief of the army staff. Lt Gen Ghulam Jilani Khan, the secretary general of the Ministry of Defense, has been appointed governor of Punjab. He will assume office from 1 May.

HAQ ATTENDS FUNERAL OF MILITARY SECRETARY

BK250904 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 25 Apr 80

[Text] The body of the president's military secretary Brig Zafar Ali Khan was brought by plane to Islamabad from London this morning. Funeral services were held immediately afterward at Pakistan's Chaklala air force base, attended by President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq who expressed his condolences and sympathy to the bereaved family. Among others attending the services were Supreme Court Chief Justice S. Anwarul Haq, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee Gen Mohammad Iqbal Khan, Baluchistan Governor Lt Gen Rahimuddin Khan and federal ministers.

NEPAL

AFP REPORTS ON POKHARA REFERENDUM CLASH

BK241714 Hong Kong AFP in English 1710 GMT 24 Apr 80

[Excerpt] Katmandu 24 Apr, (AFP)--Although the Nepalese Government has been insisting that only one person died in the police firing at Pokhara, local vernacular daily NAYAN NEPAL reported that three persons had been killed in this police suppression of the multi-party campaigners. The paper said five of the 15 persons who sustained bullet injuries are still in critical condition. The official version said none of the five persons with bullet injuries who were admitted to the hospital are in critical condition while others who received minor injuries had already been discharged from the hospital with first aid treatment.

The situation in Pokhara is described as tense and armed police are guarding the government buildings and bridges. In the clash, according to the reports reaching here today, local people had thrown stones and sulphuric acid at the police in retaliation for the police firing and detonation of the tear gas shells.

Meanwhile, Mr. K.P. Bhattarai, the acting president of the outlawed Nepali Congress Party, said that the local administration in Jakarpur had terrorised the multi-party campaigners by inciting "hooligans and murderers" from Sitamad, a bordering township in India. He said "we are not retaliating because we are the winning party in the referendum. We will be tolerant till the verdict of the referendum."

SRI LANKA

FORMER PREMIER DENIES CHARGES OF ABUSE OF POWER

BK181239 Hong Kong AFP in English 1229 GMT 18 Apr 80

[Text] Colombo, 18 April (AFP)--Former Prime Minister Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike today denied charges served on her by a special presidential commission probing alleged misdeeds committed during her 7-year rule from 1970. Mrs Bandaranaike, who celebrated her 64th birthday yesterday, had been served 10 charges relating to abuse and misuse of power, land transactions and the unwarranted continuation of a state of emergency in the country. She has been noticed to appear before the commission on May 7.

The commission, comprising three judges, had served the charges on February 28 and given her time till today to file her answers. Mrs Bandaranaike's answers were handed over to the secretary to the commission at noon today by her attorney. She has denied all the charges a commission source said. If found guilty of any of these charges Mrs Bandaranaike could be deprived of her civic rights including the right to contest a seat in parliament.

The commission was appointed by President J.R. Jayewardene 2 years ago to probe alleged misdeeds of Mrs Bandaranaike as prime minister, her cabinet ministers and officials during her regime from 1970 to 1977. The commission has so far taken up only two cases relating to charges of misuse and abuse of power by a former minister and a former senior government official.

The inquiry into charges against Mr Felix R. Dias Bandaranaike, a senior minister in Mrs Bandaranaike's government, has been completed but commissions findings have not been disclosed yet. The government official, Mr Nihal Jayawickrema, former secretary to the Justice Ministry, was found guilty of several charges and he was stripped of his civic rights.

REPORTAGE ON REACTION TO U.S. RESCUE MISSION

Probe into White House Announcement

NC250725 Paris AFP in English 0722 GMT 25 Apr 80

[Text] Tehran, April 25 (AFP)--Iranian leaders today ordered an immediate probe into the White House announcement that two U.S. aircraft crashed in Iran on a mission to rescue the American Embassy hostages.

Army Commander-in-Chief Mohammed Shadmehr said he had no indication of exactly where the aircraft collided. His staff was now checking all airstrips in the country.

The Iranian militants occupying the U.S. Embassy meanwhile said they would issue a communique, if the news were confirmed, specifying what action they would take.

A spokesman refused commment on what this action would be.

A source close to religious leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni said the two aircraft probably crashed between Yazd and Tabas, if such an accident did happen.

Yazd is 650 kms (400 miles) southeast of here, below the salt desert of Dasht-e-Kavir, and Tabas is about 420 kms (250 miles) northwest of Yazd.

An army spokesman later said the official communique promised for 0830 GMT had been delayed.

It would be released only when all necessary information was gathered, he said.

Commenting on news of the raid, Iranian radio said: "The divine protection which gave victory to our revolution has wrecked the American action.

"Their aircraft were destroyed, their helicopters lay in the mud and the men were prisoners of the desert.

"(President) Carter was therefore forced to reveal his act," it said.

Militant on Canceled Attempt

BK250930 Hong Kong AFP in English 0927 GMT 25 Apr 80

[Te] Tokyo, 25 Apr (AFP)--One of the Iranian militants holding the American hostages at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran said he did not trust a White House announcement today that the U.S. cancelled its hostage rescue operation because of a plane collision, according to the Japan broadcasting corporation (NHK) here.

In an NHK overseas telephone interview this afternoon, the militant student also said all American hostages at the embassy in Tehran are doing well.

Meanwhile, Chief Cabinet Secretary Masayoshi Ito told reporters that the Japanese Government could not immediately confirm press reports from Washington that the U.S. attempted to rescue the hostages but failed due to a plane collision.

"We knew of the incident only through foreign wire service reports". He declined further comments.

Mr Ito indicated that Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira will not call an emergency cabinet meeting today to discuss ways to cope with the new situation.

Prime Minister Ohira told newsmen that he was trying to confirm the press reports through the Foreign Ministry. Asked by reporters about the possibility of the U.S. rescue operation being a military action, Mr Ohira just said the Foreign Ministry is trying to confirm this and he refused any further comment.

The U.S. Embassy here told the Japanese Foreign Ministry today that the attempt to rescue the hostages in Tehran was not a hostile one against Iran, according to ministry officials.

The embassy also told the ministry that there was no injury to any Iranian, the officials said.

Replying to a ministry inquiry, American Embassy officials here confirmed press reports that the rescue operation was halted when an accident occurred, they said.

Eight Americans were reportedly killed in the abortive operation and all those injured had been airlifted from Iran, the U.S. officials said without going into details, according to the Japanese officials.

A Foreign Ministry source here said U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance officially informed Japanese Foreign Minister Saburo Okita shortly after 4:30 p.m. local time (0730 GMT) that a rescue attempt for the American hostages in Tehran had failed.

First Tehran Report

LD250944 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0934 GMT 25 Apr 80

[Text] The White House in Washington today issued a statement announcing that a military attempt to release the American hostages in Tehran failed due to a technical fault. In the White House announcement it is said that two American military planes collided on a remote Iranian airfield and eight members of the crew were killed.

Army Statement

LD251000 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0935 GMT 25 Apr 80

[Text] The following statement has been issued by the Joint Staff of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. "Allah verily shall not change what is in a people until they change what is in themselves"--Koran.

At this juncture when the revolutionary and struggling nation of Iran, by its destruction of the edifice of the satans is proceeding toward the realization of its Islamic mission, Almighty God, who is the friend and companion of the meek, is rendering help to our rising nation so much so that as a result of pursuit by aircraft of the air force of the Islamic Republic of Iran two U.S. aircraft carrying a number of CIA agents and U.S. Marines with the aim of launching a surprise raid on the spy den of the U.S. Government in Tehran to release the hostages, collided while fleeing from the territory of Iran, caught fire and crashed in the vicinity of the Tabas region.

In the meantime, detailed information will be announced later.

With the succor of Almighty God, Islam is victorious.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Commentary on Mission

LD251011 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0937 GMT 25 Apr 80

[Text] From early this morning news agencies throughout the world have been reporting the shameful failure of an American military intervention in Iran.

The world-devouring America; proud of her satanical equipment, had tried to play with fire and had sent forces to the (?desert). However, the guardian and keeper of this uprisen nation, who from the beginning of this revolution has taken this revolution under the wing of His protection, has inflicted a defeat on the Americans and their mercenaries which is unprecedented in their history and the history of the world, and forced them to retreat. Their airplanes have fallen. Their helicopters have gotten stuck in the mud and they themselves have become prisoners in the boundless prison of the desert. And Carter, destitute and desperate, has been forced to accept defeat and to put an end to the operation.

Isn't all this sufficient for the world-devourers to know that it is not possible to confront this revolution? And isn't it enough for them to realize that "the lamp which has been lighted by God, whoever tries to extinguish it will be eliminated." [Persian poem]

Even if these incredible happenings had not taken place and even if the American operations had been successful from a technical point of view, do they still not know that this tumultuous sea of the committed nation is prepared for martyrdom and will with its self-sacrifice make an eternal cemetery for them?

Jody Powell Cited

LD251027 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0938 GMT 25 Apr 80

[Text] According to an AP dispatch the White House has issued a statement announcing: A military attempt to rescue the U.S. hostages in Tehran was aborted because of equipment failure. The White House statement added that two U.S. military aircraft collided on the ground on a remote airfield in Iran, as a result eight persons were killed.

White House spokesman Jody Powell, who read this statement to newsmen, said: All the Americans who participated in these operations, including an unknown number of wounded, have been taken out of Iran. Powell added: There is every possibility that those wounded in this incident will be safe. He added: U.S. President Jimmy Carter, who ordered the suspension of the operation, takes full responsibility.

Powell added: The United States continues to hold the Iranian Government responsible for the security of the U.S. hostages, and is determined to obtain the release of the hostages at the earliest possible time. Carter's spokesman said that he is not in a position to give further details on this incident.

The White House announcement is as follows:

The president has issued an order for the cancellation of operations in progress in Iran for the rescue of the hostages. This mission, because of a defect in materiel, has failed. The statement also said: In the course of the exit of the U.S. personnel the two aircraft, which collided on land in a remote airfield in Iran, no military clash took place. The U.S. President expressed regret for the death of eight Americans and the wounding of others in that incident. The White House statement adds: Those Americans who took part in these operations have now left Iran by air and those who were wounded are under medical treatment and it is expected that they will recover.

Jody Powell added: The motive behind this mission was not hostility against either Iran or the Iranian people, and there were no Iranian casualties in this incident. He said: Carter issued the order for the carrying out of these operations for humanitarian reasons and only in order to safeguard U.S. national interests and to reduce international tension. Jody Powell said: The U.S. people are grateful to the brave men who participated in these rescue operations.

Teheran Cites TASS

LD251044 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0939 GMT 25 Apr 80

[Text] The TASS agency has carried, without comment, the White House statement pertaining to the failure of the rescue operations concerning the U.S. hostages in Tehran. TASS wrote: The U.S. military operations, because of equipment failure, have met fiasco. TASS added: These operations have been suspended on Carter's instructions and the U.S. President has personally taken full responsibility for them.

Tehran Cites AFP

LD251048 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0940 GMT 25 Apr 80

[Text] According to an AFP dispatch, the U.S. White House has announced that Jimmy Carter, at 1130 today, that is, at 1200 GMT, will make speech on U.S. radio and television addressed to the U.S. nation. Jimmy Carter's speech will be devoted to the U.S. abortive attempt last night to rescue the hostages held in its embassy in Tehran.

Damascus Cites Rescue Attempt

LD251107 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0941 GMT 25 Apr 80

[Text] According to an AP dispatch, Damascus radio has announced: The U.S. abortive attempt to rescue the hostages is naked aggression against Iran. Damascus radio claimed that Egypt and Israel had given facilities to the aircraft carrying U.S. troops participating in the rescue operations during their departure for and return from Iran. Damascus radio has not divulged the details of this incident and only described it as an act of U.S. banditry. This is the first reaction by an Arab country to these operations.

Call To Search Area

LD251147 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1129 GMT 25 Apr 80

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners, we have a statement from the Joint Staff of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Please listen:

At this time when the airplanes of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran are serching the area, the dear compatriots of the city of Tabas and the villages of Robat-e Khan, (Govat Badam), Hajjiabad and other villages around this area are asked to cooperate. It is hoped that with the help of the armed forces and the people who live near the place where the Americans landed, steps could be taken to arrest the fugitives.

[Signed] The staff of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Ambassador Comment

NC251211 Paris AFP in English 1200 GMT 25 Apr 80

[Text] Paris, April 25 (AFP)--Iranian ambassador in Paris Amir Alai charged today that U.S. President Jimmy Carter's aborted rescue mission in Iran had "put the lives of the hostages in danger."

Speaking in a French radio interview, Mr. Amir Alai described the mission as "a failure for Mr. Carter. He is making things difficult for the students and fanning the fire--it is very awkward on his part."

The Iranian ambassador charged that Mr. Carter's aim was not to save the hostages but "to save face in view of the (U.S. presidential) elections.

"Mr. Carter must realize that the students holding the hostages are well-equipped and will never allow this sort of operation to be carried out," he added.

Air Force Spokesman on Crash

NC251235 Paris AFP in English 1231 GMT 25 Apr 80

[Text] Tehran, April 25 (AFP)--A chase by Iranian air force planes caused the collision today of two United States aircraft on a mission to rescue the U.S. Embassy hostages here, an Iranian Air Force spokesman confirmed today.

The spokesman denied however that Iranian aircraft had opened fire on the American planes.

He said that previous reports that the collision had involved a C-130 transport plane and a helicopter were false, but declined to specify what kind of U.S. planes were involved in the operation.

The high-ranking air force officer, asked about a third aircraft taking part in the operation as mentioned in a dispatch from PARS NEWS AGENCY, said that all the wreckage was still at the crash scene as well as some Americans.

He refused to say what time the collision had occurred but added that the air force had wanted "some time" to lapse before making the incident public.

Army Report

LD251241 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1224 GMT 25 Apr 80

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners, attention, please. The third statement by the Joint Army Staff of the Islamic Republic of Iran was issued as follows:

In the name of God. As we announced in our earlier statement 7, marines and raiding personnel are now in the region. The Islamic Republic Army's Air Force is maintaining aerial surveillance.

The inhabitants of Tabas and the villages of Robat-e Khan, Robat Badam, Hajji Abad as well as the inhabitants of big villages nearby who are in the vicinity of the landing site, including other villages in the region, have been called upon to prevent the escaping of the Americans and demonstrate the utmost cooperation with the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Obviously, there is no need for people other than those mentioned to call in to offer their cooperation, as this would hinder action by the army personnel.

[Signed] Joint Army Staff of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Khorasan Governor Statement

LD251252 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1227 GMT 25 Apr 80

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Following the news report in connection with the landing of American helicopters near Tabas, the governor general of Khorasan broadcast an announcement at 1500 from Radio Mashhad in which, while calling on the people to be patient and at the same time maintain their revolutionary alertness, they are called upon to abstain from any assembly, sit-in, march or demonstration, considering the special conditions governing the region and the possibility of infiltration of such assemblies by mercenary agents, until further notice.

The governor general of Khorasan declares that all national mobilization forces are on full alert throughout Khorasan for any emergency action; for it is possible that the U.S. mercenaries may scatter throughout the country for sabotage operations. The governor general has appealed to all urban and rural sisters and brothers to notify the nearest police or gendarmerie station should they encounter any suspicious foreigner and prevent such persons from escaping or hiding.

AFP Quotes Qotbzadeh

NC251304 Paris AFP in English 1300 GMT 25 Apr 80

[Text] Paris, April 25 (AFP)--Iranian Foreign Minister Sadeq Qotbzadeh today said of the failed U.S. attempt to rescue the American hostages from Tehran "it is an act of war against Iran."

But he has asked the militant students guarding the hostages "not to react as nervously as the Americans did," he added in a telephone interview here with AFP after hearing President Jimmy Carter's statement about the failed mission.

Revolution Guard Comment

GF251239 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1125 GMT 25 Apr 80

[Announcement issued in Khuzestan province by the Ahvaz Corps of the Islamic Revolution Guards; no date given]

[Text] Dear compatriots, mobilize yourselves for a holy war to defend God's path, with the beginning of the new phase of victory in Iran's Islamic Revolution--the cultural and educational revolution--the archsatan, through a shameful scheme and plan, was once again planning a military attack against Tehran. In their infantile imagination, they were trying to repeat the events at Entebbe airport through the use of criminals and their most dreadful espionage organizations, the Israeli MOSSAD and the American CIA.

However, the God of existence, as always, rushed to the assistance of our Islamic and holy revolution and burned their airplanes in the region near Tabas, near the Kavir desert, thus, the righteous and divine promise has become a reality.

While thanking God for this great and divine kindness and attention, and in order to condemn the archsatan, the biggest enemy of God, we extend an invitation to all nationally mobilized forces comprising the devoted soldiers of Islam and Imam Khomeyni to participate in a march. It will begin at 1800 today at martyrs square and Imam Khomeyni Avenue and will conclude at the A'zam religious center.

[Signed] Mobilization headquarters for the Ahvaz Corps of the Islamic Revolution Guards in Khuzestan Province.

AFP: AMERICAN HOSTAGE REPORTEDLY CRITICAL OF POLICY

NC242201 Paris AFP in English 2153 GMT 24 Apr 80

[Text] Tehran, April 24 (AFP)--Kevin Hermening, at 20 the youngest of the American hostages in the U.S. Embassy here, said today in a televised interview that the behavior of the militants holding the hostages was "human."

Mr. Hermening, who was visited this week by his mother, Barbara Timm, asserted that the U.S. Government was abusing the hostages in its own interests and hiding the events which lead to the current situation.

The U.S. Marine Corps sergeant said that when ousted shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi returned to power after the fall of Premier Mohammed Mossaddeq, he put the country under control of the United States, silenced the opposition and killed many of its members.

He added that he was convinced that the plan to welcome the deposed shah to the United States last fall for medical treatment had been worked out three months in advance.

The interview was broadcast on the same program as another interview with Mr. Hermening's mother amid rumors here that he would be released soon.

Like the other 50 hostages at the U.S. Embassy, he has been held captive there for 25 1/2 weeks. He referred to the militants as "students."

QOTBZADEH THREATENS TO CLOSE PERSIAN GULF

LD241642 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Apr 80

[Text] Foreign Minister Qotbzadeh today took part in an interview given to our correspondent, in the course of which he said: Should America continue to threaten us with mining the Persian Gulf, then we shall close the Persian Gulf and will not allow even a drop of crude oil to be exported.

SWISS EMBASSY TO LOOK AFTER U.S.DIPLOMATIC INTERESTS

LD241828 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1649 GMT 24 Apr 80

[Text] According to a report from the central news unit, the following statement was issued by the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran tonight:

On the basis of the approval of the Islamic Revolution Council, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has agreed that the Swiss Embassy in Tehran should undertake to protect the diplomatic and consular interests of the U.S. Government in Iran. This agreement has taken place as a result of the agreement of the U.S. Government to the effect that the diplomatic and consular interests of the government of Islamic Republic of Iran in the United States should be looked after by the embassy of the Government of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria in Washington.

DEVELOPMENTS IN SITUATION AT UNIVERSITIES, SCHOOLS

INA Cites Minister's Statement

JN232058 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2030 GMT 23 Apr 80

[Text] Baghdad, 23 April--Hasan Habibi, culture and higher education minister in the Khomeyni regime, has admitted that 17 universities and higher institutes in Iran are currently witnessing clashes between students and Khomeyni guards.

In an interview broadcast by Tehran Radio this evening, Habibi said that those universities include Tehran, Mashhad, Baluchestan va Sistan, Ahvaz, Tabriz and Shiraz. Habibi affirmed that chaos and lack of security prevail in the above-mentioned universities.

In another development, the Shiraz University board of trustees denounced the practices of the Khomeyni guards, who fabricated incidents in the university in which scores of students were injured.

The board of trustees demanded freedom of thought and opinion in the university and punishing and trying those responsible for the bloody incidents which the university has witnessed during the past 2 days.

Ahvaz Staff on Violence

GF241037 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1230 GMT 23 Apr 80

[Announcement issued by the supervisors, professors, workers and staff of Ahvaz University--no date given]

[Text] In His exalted name. We, the supervisors, students, professors, workers and staff of Ahvaz University, who follow the policies of Iran's Islamic Revolution under the leadership of Imam Khomeyni, condemn the Cherikha-ye Feda'i-ye Khalq and other various groups who, in opposition to the Islamic Revolution, opened fire on the Muslim and unarmed people who had gathered to pray on Tuesday 22 April.

As a result of their actions, five people were killed and others injured. We ask the Revolution Council to purge all universities throughout Iran, particularly Ahvaz University, of the Western and Eastern elements who claim to support the masses. This should be done in order to establish the proper background for a fundamental revision of the education system.

Rafsanjani Blames University Officials

LD241820 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1704 GMT 24 Apr 80

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, member of the Revolution Council, is today reported to have said:

At a meeting today with the founder of the Islamic Revolution and leader of the revolution in which some other members of the Revolution Council also took part, views were exchanged on the situation in the universities. The imam strongly emphasized the need for (?reconstruction) and changing the education system in the universities.

Rafsanjani added: It was actually the responsible officials at Tehran University who brought about the present situation. How could they then claim that they were leading the university along a correct path?

Students Pledge Calm

LD250414 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 25 Apr 80

[Text] Mr Garmarudi, press and cultural adviser to Mr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, the president of our country, has announced: Last night, the representatives of the Islamic societies of students and the associations of Muslim students spent about 3 hours meeting and conferring with the president. After this meeting, Mr Bani-Sadr said: The Revolution Council last night declared that it regards as absolutely essential that all students attend classes beginning Saturday morning.

Mr Garmarudi also announced that the representatives of the Islamic societies of students and the associations of Muslim students in this meeting pledged that they will use all their efforts to maintain calm in the universities and to bring about a normal atmosphere.

DEVELOPMENTS REGARDING RELATIONS WITH IRAQ

Federation Issues Statement

JN241123 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0910 GMT 24 Apr 80

[Text] O mujahidin, the Iraqi federation of Muslim students has issued the following statement:

In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate. "Think not of those who are slain in God's way as dead. Nay, they live finding their sustenance in the presence of their lord." [koranic verse]

The tyrannous Iraqi regime, which is the agent of U.S. imperialism and Zionism and is headed by the executioner Saddam at-Tikriti, has perpetrated the crime of executing the great Islamic theologian, Mujahid Seyyed Muhammad Baqir as-Sadr, and his sister, the heroine of Islam, mujahid and thinker, Bint al-Huda.

The Iraqi regime secretly buried the two bodies in the noble An-Najaf.

Thus, the agent regime in Iraq has shown its blatant hostility to God and his prophet and all the Islamic nation through killing the most prominent Islamic theologian known to religion. Indeed, As-Sadr offered so much for the nation during his noble life, be this his offerings to the Muslims and humanity or his pioneering, leading role, since he put the nation on the right path of awareness and determination.

As we announce the death of this mujahid theologian and happy martyr to the Islamic and human societies and offer our condolences for the great loss, we pledge to God to follow in the steps of the martyr. Indeed, the march of Islam will not go backward now that this martyr and other martyrs from the sons of Iraq have watered this tree with their chaste blood.

We pledge in the name of religion and loyalty that this blood will not be shed for nothing.

Indeed, this crime will be the (axe) which will overthrow the tyrannous throne of Iraq.

The criminal Saddam at-Tikriti must know that the martyrs' blood will follow him. The mujahidin will vow to avenge themselves on him and his hireling regime. The people will pounce upon him and make him an example for every traitor. The day of victory is near if God should will it.

Report of Attempted Sabotage

LD251102 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1012 GMT 25 Apr 80

[Text] The PARS NEWS AGENCY correspondent in the border regions of Dehloran and Musyan reports: Around 0330 this morning, a number of Iraqis intent on sabotage and armed with light and heavy weapons opened fire on oil pipelines.

The Iraqi assailants were forced to retreat as a result of the return fire of the security guards and strong resistance by the bedouin tribesmen of the border region.

The PARS NEWS AGENCY correspondent, who had gone to the scene of the clash when the headquarters of Musyan district office came under fire, reported: When the firing started, the people of Musyan and the tribesmen of the border region armed themselves and (went) to the scene of the clash in order to thwart the assailants. Using various vehicles they started pursuing them. On the arrival of the people and the assisting forces, the assailants fled to Iraq. There was no damage resulting from these clashes.

Kermanshah Gendarmerie Reports Attack

LD251130 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1014 GMT 25 Apr 80

[Text] According to the PARS NEWS AGENCY correspondent, quoting the commander of Kermanshah gendarmerie, at 0300 this morning Iraqi assailants attacked the (Valak Koshteh) border and border post but encountered strong resistance by the gendarmerie personnel of the post and their attack was foiled.

According to the news agency, armed assailants using RPG-7 grenades attacked a military ambulance carrying an injured person near Tazeh Abad-e Gardeno. The passengers in the ambulance suffered losses. [sentence as heard]

Of the martyrs of this clash, an officer, two NCO's and one private have so far been taken to the quarantine hospital in Qasr-e Shirin. The number of the dead and wounded during the clashes in the region is not known yet.

The correspondent said it appears that the Iraqi Ba'thist forces intend to attack the (Ezgele) and (Sheykh Sale) regions.

UNREST, VIOLENCE CONTINUE IN PROVINCES

Prosecutor on Khuzestan Incidents

LD241101 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 24 Apr 80

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Qoddusi, the revolution prosecutor general of the Iranian Islamic Republic, in an interview this morning regarding the recent incidents and developments in Khuzestan and those arrested in these events said: In principle, we will react sharply to those people who are currently engaged with acts of sabotage and hatching plots; we will not show any leniency or indulgence. Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Qoddusi added: We will take action as soon as possible in sending judges to the provincial cities so that effective decisions are taken on those who have been arrested in connection with recent incidents and developments, so that a most severe struggle is waged against them.

President's Envoy to Rasht

LD241102 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0936 GMT 24 Apr 80

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam Lahuti met and had talks about the incidents in Rasht with Dr Bani-Sadr, the president of the republic, at 2000 last night. At the conclusion of this talk the president delegated Hojjat ol-Eslam Lahuti to leave for Rasht to establish security and calm in that city.

Gendarmes May Be Used By Guards Corps

LD241142 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1015 GMT 24 Apr 80

[Text] The following statement has been issued by the presidential office:

Effective from the date of the issuance of this notification the gendarmerie is hereby permitted, in accordance with the allocations and regulations being worked out, to place a number of those people who are eligible for military service at the disposal of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps for the purpose of guarding the achievements of the Islamic Revolution and to safeguard the country's borders.

[Signed] The president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, Abolhasan Bani-Sadr.

Army Commander Statement

LD241720 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Apr 80

[Text] In connection with the preservation of the independence of Iran, the commander of the army ground forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran has issued a statement which reads as follows:

In His almighty's name. The ground forces of the Islamic Republic Army, while preserving the independence of Iran and safeguarding the gains of the Islamic Revolution in the Kordestan conspiracy has, in recent days, had 45 men martyred and 54 wounded. As a result, since the victory of the revolution, it has offered a total of 267 martyrs to God and the great Iranian nation. May God accept these sacrifices of the land forces in the way of safeguarding Islam. We also request you, the noble Iranian nation, to (honor) our sacrifices in this respect.

The Japanese Government and oil industry interpret the delicate change in the Iranian stand as Iran's wish not to lose stable customers such as Japan and Britain in v[illegible] of its foreign exchange reserve situation.

Some of the Japanese firms believe that if they continue persistent negotiations with NIOC, a way can be opened for ending the stalemate--the cutoff in crude shipments to Japan. The talks with BP are expected to continue until Sunday in London.

Although NIOC suspended oil shipments to Japan, it is still shipping fuel oil and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG). Nevertheless, Iran's Revolutionary Council is taking a tough stand and NIOC has threatened to cut off direct deal crude supply to Japan in fiscal 1981 if the Japanese trading and oil firms fail to comply with the price increase.

Iran is now taking a positive approach to East European economic bodies to retaliate against the economic sanctions by the free world. The country has agreed with Romania to supply 100,000 barrels of crude a day, some 60 per cent higher than the contracted volume, at dollar 35,00 per barrel. East Germany and Czechoslovakia have also expressed the hope to buy Iranian crude at the same price.

But East European countries facing the serious foreign currency situation may be unable to pay for the high-priced crude, the sources added.

BANK GOVERNOR ON TRANSFERRING ASSETS FROM EEC, JAPAN

JN250751 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 25 Apr 80

[Text] Iranian Central Bank Governor 'Ali Nobari has stated that Iran will withdraw its assets from Japan and the EEC states.

AP quotes Nobari as saying that Iran has adopted this decision since it is expecting these states to freeze Iranian assets deposited there.

Nobari added that Iran will transfer its assets to other states' banks, including some East European states.

The Iranian Central Bank governor estimated the Iranian assets deposited in the FRG banks to be about $700 million.

ARMY STAFF ISSUES STATEMENT ON MILITARY SERVICE

LD242208 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2006 GMT 24 Apr 80

[Text] The following statement was issued today by the combined staff of the Islamic Iranian Army, addressed to soldiers:

In the name of God.

It behooves us to inform you, dear and efficient soldiers, that you are now in the service of the great Islam; your service to the country is a service to Islam and the Holy Koran; and military service is [word indistinct].

Statement Cites Saqqez Officer

LD241744 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Apr 80

[Text] According to a central news bureau report, the following statement was issued by the commander of the army ground forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran:

In His almight name. To the noble Iranian nation, I am happy to convey to you the pure feelings of the personnel of the Saqqez brigade and the brigade commander who, in adverse living conditions in the fortress, are exposed to armed attacks by counter-revolutionary and antipeople (?individuals).

The brigade commander refers to this moral and psychological needs and says the important point is what the officers, NCO's and soldiers say: In Kordestan we are labelled as antipeople, but until our moment of death and our last breath, we will fight to defend the honor of the revolution and Islam. We need the decisive support of the nation and the government for the sake of the continuation of the revolution.

'Saboteur' Executed

LD241800 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Apr 80

[Text] According to a PARS NEWS AGENCY dispatch from Ahvaz, the Islamic Revolution Court in Dezful, after investigating the dossier of Salih, an Iraqi saboteur and mercenary, judged him to be a perpetrator of corruption on earth for the crimes of espionage, carrying explosives and causing an explosion in oil pipelines. He was condemned to death. The sentence has been carried out.

Statement on Sanandaj Fighting

LD241836 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Apr 80

[Text] The commander of the ground forces of the Islamic Republican Army has issued statement No three, which reads as follows:

In His almighty name. In recent days our country's president unmasked the ominous designs of U.S. imperialism regarding the creation of internal chaos and subversive fighting. Simultaneously we see the elements attacked to colonialism, on the eve of the economic blockade, embarking on chaos, subversion and confrontation throughout the country with the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran. They block the movement of ground forces detachments near the borders in their attempts to leave the country's borders undefended.

The armed group which announced its readiness to defend the country's borders has itself created a major obstacle in the way of the country's border guards. Using heavy and light arms they shoot from within the town toward the military barracks. They seized an ambulance traveling toward the Sanandaj club [presumably officers club] carrying water, medicine, and transferring the martyrs and the wounded, and took its passengers hostage.

Simultaneous with these acts which violate religion, humanitarian and nationalist values, the aliens mass media, with great relish, has begun spreading lies in an attempt to weaken the morale of the army and the noble nation of Iran and to create division between the various strata. But, thanks be to God, the army enjoys the [word indistinct] of the imam of the nation and the president and the noble Iranian nation.

Dear compatriot. By preventing rumors you can frustrate the aliens' efforts to weaken morale and their psychological war.

Dear countrymen. Your soldier brothers will defend the fortress of the homeland and will tolerate all hardships. By strengthening their morale, you have (?paid tribute) to their sacrifices.

[Signed] The commander of the ground forces of the army of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Brigadier General Fallahi.

Deaths in Ahvaz

ID242104 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1930 GMT 24 Apr 80

[Text] At 2030 today Dr Bakhshi, head of Razi hospital, Ahvaz, spoke by telephone with our correspondent at the Ahvaz central news unit. He announced that 2 people were killed in the Ahvaz clashes and 18 were injured.

Meanwhile, information received from the Ahvaz Islamic Revolution Court reports that so far over 70 people detained at the Ahvaz University incident have been set free, while the files of a number of others are being considered for their release during tonight and tomorrow. For this reason, families are requested not to gather at the revolution court and other centers so that the court can consider the existing files in a calm atmosphere and as soon as possible.

Kordestan Army To Hold Fire

ID242036 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1955 GMT 24 Apr 80

[Text] The following statement was issued tonight by the commander of the land forces of the Army of the Islamic Republic:

In the name of God.

The noble people of Sanandaj, in recent days armed and unlawful elements have repeatedly attacked the Sanandaj garrison using light and heavy weapons and causing considerable damage. In order to once again demonstrate its goodwill and humanitarian intentions to the innocent people of Sanandaj, the Kordestan army division will hold all fire from 0800 to 1400 tomorrow and subsequently notifies all armed elements to take advantage of this opportunity, hand over their weapons to the security forces and refrain from opening fire on garrisons.

The oppressed inhabitants of Sanandaj should personally witness the counterrevolutionaries' reaction.

Should these elements refuse to surrender to the security forces or continue with their shooting, the army division will take decisive action to disarm them. Obviously, such action will be taken in parallel with a series of military operations.

We appeal to the honorable inhabitants of Sanandaj to evacuate the town and to go temporarily to a secure place should the counterrevolutionaries continue their adventurous acts, thus forcing the division to react. In this way, no innocent person's blood will be shed.

May God help us in restoring security in this province, this oppressed province.

[Signed] Commander of the land forces of the Islamic Republic Army, Brigadier General Fallahi.

Statement by Khomeyni's Envoy

ID250438 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 25 Apr 80

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam Lahuti, the representative of Imam Khomeyni and the Friday imam of Rasht, who has been entrusted by Iran's president with the investigation of the recent events in Rasht, has arrived there. In an interview with a PARS correspondent in Rasat concerning the recent events in this city he said: The governor general of Gilan has said that no group or party will be allowed to organize marches or to demonstrate. The governor general of Gilan and I will discuss all the problems in our speeches before the Friday prayers.

Concerning those who have been arrested during the recent events in Rasht, he said: The cases of these people will be investigated and if there are certain individuals who are innocent they will be freed immediately. If, God forbid, they are guilty even if they are freed today they will be arrested tomorrow. [sentence as heard]. Of course, those people who started the troubles and who killed the children of the people and those [word indistinct] they should be punished.

In a message addressed to all the people, Hojjat ol-Eslam Lahuti has askead the people to be vigilant and to act intelligently. He has asked them to put aside differences and clashes because only the enemies of the country will benefit by such acts ani the nation will be damaged by them. In his message, Hojjat ol-Eslam Lahuti has asked all the people not to attack any political parties or groups. If it is decided that the offices of various political parties are to be closed down it should be in accordance with the law.

Bani-Sadr To Speak

ID250442 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 25 Apr 80

[Text] Dr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr the president, has left for Ahvaz. The president will give a speech to the people of Ahvaz at 1100 today.

BBC Report on Kordestan

TA250650 London BBC World Service in English at 0600 GMT 25 Apr 80

[From "Newsdesk"]

[Text] Among Iran's many internal problems, the hostilities in the Kurdish region have reached a new intensity and there are indications that the government forces are about to launch another assault to put down the armed opposition. The army commander has called for a surrender of weapons in the regional capital, Sanandaj, warning that otherwise decisive action will be taken. Another report by Alex Brody:

[Begin Brody recording] According to reports coming out of Kordestan the fighting has reached the scale of war. Precise details are hard to come by. The army is saying very little. Communication with the region is difficult, so one has to rely on Kurdish sources. They say the towns of Saqez and Sanandaj are suffering heavily from bombardments by helicopters, planes and artillery. The death toll, they are reporting, mounts above 200. They have appealed to international bodies for help. Through the Kurdish society in Tehran, pleas have been passed to the Red Cross and the International Human Rights Commission. The Iranian association of jurists has asked President Bani-Sadr for calm and restraint by the army. The foreign minister, Mr Qotbezadeh, said the authorities were continuously trying to ask for a cease-fire; but he added, we believe that now the whole thing has started, we should finish with it once and for all. [end recording]

Sanandaj Citizens Urged To Evacuate

LD250906 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0840 GMT 25 Apr 80

[Text] Here is an announcement by the 28th Army Division in Kordestan:

In His exalted name. Honorable inhabitants of Sanandaj. Now that the counterrevolutionaries find themselves forced to submit, just as before they are determined to make use of you Muslim and innocent people as a shield and a cover. You people who have been oppressed by the counterrevolutionaries are requested to disarm the illegal armed groups as far as you are able to do so. As the counterrevolutionaries are trying to prevent you from leaving the town you can leave the city from Kermanshah road where you will be under the protection of the army. Our aim is to cleanse the region at the end of the deadline given, therefore the wary and vigilant people of Sanandaj should get away from the danger zone as soon as possible. Don't be deceived by the propaganda and threats from the counterrevolutionaries loudspeakers. Get far away from the region. Greetings.

[Signed] The 28th Army Division of Kordestan.

Eight Killed in Kermanshah

LD251110 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1013 GMT 25 Apr 80

[Text] According to reports by the public relations office of Kermanshah Islamic Revolution Guards Corps given to Kermanshah news unit, clashes occurred last night in (?Sheykh Sale) between armed Kurdish peshmergas and mercenaries, in which eight of the Muslim Kurdish peshmergas were martyred and 15 were injured. The Revolution Guards Corps have taken care of the transfer of the injured of this clash to Kermanshah hospitals.

FURTHER ON QOTBZADEH STATEMENT ON EEC DECISION, GULF

LD241748 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Apr 80

[Text] Foreign Minister Sadeq Qotbzadeh, in an interview given to a correspondent of the Voice and Profile of Iran, has commented on the EEC decisions. He said: Obviously, we regret this initial decision. When I was in France, I held talks there which led to a postponement of their final decision. However, I regret that the European countries are so dependent not only on the U.S. general strategic policy, but, worse, on U.S. domestic political games. The question of the hostage crisis, enlarged so much, has been given so much prominence because it has coincided with the U.S. elections. Consequently, the European countries, too, are demonstrating how much they follow the United States and how seriously they are dominated and influenced by the United States.

The foriegn minister described the EEC member countries' dependence as regrettable, and at the same time called it a clarification at the world level which would be useful to Iran. He said: As repeatedly stated, we will never surrender to pressure and force.

The foreign minister added: The solution to the hostage crisis is a logical one; our legitimate demands should be met. As long as these demands are ignored, there is no possibility of our surrender.

Qotbzadeh said: We have already stated this and will do so in the future. The EEC countries' ambassadors are expected to come to Iran. We will inform them all that under no circumstances shall we submit to force or pressure either by American or its associates. He added: This is our official reaction, which we have clearly stated.

Continuing his remarks, the foreign minister said: The problem is also useful to us from another aspect. Namely, the world should realize that history is repeating itself. These gentlemen, for the sake of 50 hostages, who are perfectly well, are prepared to exert pressure at any price; this should be made clear to the world.

The foreign minister added: Another point is that it should be made clear to the world that once a nation reaches a decision it can stand up to much pressure. Having said all this, we will resist.

Commenting on his visits to Arab countries, the foreign minister said: Certain unfavorable propaganda has been made in the neighboring and Muslim countries against Iran, particularly, a wrong interpretation has been given about our revolution. They have alleged that we want to dominate them, create chaos and (?replace) imperialism in the region.

Following the revolution a great many of these countries expressed sincerity and friendship toward us. However, because of our domestic problems, we could not respond. These visits are aimed at announcing that our general policy is based on noninterference in the affairs of other countries, just as we do not allow any country to interfere in our internal affairs. Meanwhile, what we want to introduce as exporting our revolution is the question of our revolution's message, which we have already introduced to the world and will continue to do so. Our objective is to assure them that as friends we will remain friends and as enemies, naturally, will respond, too.

Still commenting on his visits to Arab countries, the foreign minister added: This issue has taken more urgency in the present circumstances, for, considering the (?recent events in Europe) we wish to acquaint these countries with all our policies.

Continuing his interview, Sadeq Qotbzadeh, referring to the U.S. threats in connection with the mining of the Persian Gulf, said: If the decision is made by these gentlemen to mine our borders or stop the export of oil to the world, then there is no reason why we should allow any more oil to be exported to the rest of the world from the Persian Gulf. In such a case, we will close the Persian Gulf at any price and with any (?means).

FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT ADDRESSES EEC SANCTIONS DECISION

LD251105 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 25 Apr 80

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran has issued the following statement following the session of the nine EEC countries and the decisions reached by them in Luxembourg: The European Community should know that, following this session, not only have the nine EEC countries made themselves dependent on American strategic policy, they have even become directly dependent on America's internal policies, too. All of them have become like playthings in the hands of those who are managing America's domestic elections. This makes it clear to the world to what extent the European community is under the influence and domination of America. This is a cause for regret, regret for the European nations.

The issue of the 50 hostages, who, as the whole world now knows, live under very good conditions in Iran, is not a very important issue for America, which had 1 million casualties in Vietnam and remained unconcerned. We saw that the European Community has also been dragged into this propaganda game of America's domestic elections. Europe should know that the Iranian nation will never submit to force and that the solution of this crisis should only be a logical solution, and the legitimate demands of the Iranian nation should be taken into consideration. Europe should know that they will be the principal losers in this game, and not Iran. So far, we have acted with restraint; but now we warn that we will not keep quiet in the face of Carter's foolish threats. If necessary, we will jointly carry out some actions which will frighten the European community, which has become a plaything of American domestic policy.

The world should know that so long as the legitimate demands of the Iranian nation are not met, the question of the hostages will not be resolved. This is an opportunity for the European Community to demand from its governments that it to be released, at least, from the influence and domination of the domestic policy of America.

So long as this legitimate demand of ours is not met there is no possibility that we will submit. This will show the world oppressors how far a nation, can go when it decides to remain steadfast. It is very foolish to threaten us with an economic embargo or the mining of Iranian shores so that we cannot export our oil; because if our oil is not exported the Iranian nation will block the entire Persian Gulf at any price and will not allow even one drop of oil to be exported from the Persian Gulf to the outside world.

MINISTER WARNS JAPAN AGAINST ADOPTING SANCTIONS

OW240302 Tokyo KYODO in English 0252 GMT 24 Apr 80

[Text] Tehran, April 23 KYODO--Acting Iranian Finance Minister Reza Salimi warned Wednesday that Japanese measures against Iran is forcing an Iranian-Japanese petrochemical project into jeopardy.

The leading Iranian evening newspaper ETTELA'AT quoted Salimi as saying that Iran would break off trade relations and joint projects with nations following American economic sanctions against Iran.

Salimi admitted West European nations and Japan stand good chances of falling in line with the U.S.

Should these countries join hands with the Americans in the economic sanctions, Iran would not resume trade and joint projects with them even after the problem of American hostages is solved, Salimi was quoted as saying.

Salimi's remarks were regarded as the first skeptical view ever voiced openly by an Iranian official over the future of the joint petrochemical project in Bandar Khomeyni, South of Tehran.

It remains unknown, however, to what extent the remarks represent a policy of the ruling Revolutionary Council of Iran.

Informally, Iran had repeatedly warned that it would switch away from Japan and favor East European nations to carry out the project if Japan withdraws from the joint undertaking.

Construction work on the petrochemical complex, long held up in the wake of the Iranian Islamic Revolution, is to resume in full scale (?shortly).

KYODO on Price Stand

OW250430 Tokyo KYODO in English 0403 GMT 25 Apr 80

[Text] Tokyo, April 25 KYODO--Indications are that Iran is relaxing its stiff demand for importers to pay the new crude price of dollar 35.00 per barrel, Japanese oil industry sources said Friday.

The sources said that National Iranian Oil Co. (NIOC) has resumed negotiations with British Petroleum Co. (BP), a major international oil firm based in London.

Although talks with Japanese trading firms, including Mitsui and Co. and oil distributors failed on Wednesday, NIOC did not bring up political discussions and explained that the demand is based on purely economic reasons, the sources said.

Therefore, the dear soldiers should not be disturbed by their remaining 2 months' service and should continue their service for this 2 months, as this will satisfy God and the hidden imam--peace be upon him.

These the words of Imam Khomeyni.

Dear soldiers, there are rumors to the effect that those soldiers who have served for 1 year are to be discharged. These rumors are being circulated by the counterrevolutionaries and have caused concern among certain soldiers. The Islamic republic's combined staff informs you, dear soldiers, that this is utterly false. We again point out that those eligible for service, and who started military service from 12 July 1979, should continue their military service for 18 months. As for those who started their service before this date, they should serve for 14 months.

It is, therefore, pointed out that no department has taken any measure contrary to this and will not do so.

As confirmed by the leader of the revolution, the Islamic Republic's soldiers are in the service of the great Islam. The defense of the Islamic homeland has become necessary for everyone.

We expect you, who in the vanguard of the Iranian nation have a sacred and divine duty. to exert more effort than before in fulfilling your genuine duty and to ignore these baseless rumors.

May your will and unshakable resilience cause the enemy to tremble as before.

[Signed] The combined staff of the Islamic Iranian Army

OFFICIAL SAYS NAVAL FORCES READY TO DEFEND WATERS

JN231825 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 23 Apr 80

[Text] Following the U.S. Defense Department announcement that it will mine Iran's southern coasts and islands, the director general of the oil exports of Kharq Island told the PARS NEWS AGENCY that the naval forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran are in charge of guarding and defending Iranian territorial waters and Kharq Island.

He added that the naval base on the island, as part of its preparations to foil the Pentagon plans, is completely ready to defend the homeland's borders. The director general of the oil exports in Kharq Island said that the movement of vessels near the island is normal.

KEYHAN INTERVIEWS KHALKHALI ON LIBYA-PLO MEDIATION

LD241355 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 15 Apr 80 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Khalkhali Warns Government; Feudalists Have Returned to Gonbad"]

[Excerpts] In an interview with the KEYHAN correspondent following his visit to several Arab countries for the purpose of mediating between Libya and the PLO and for talks with Arab leaders, Ayatollah Sadeq Khalkhali explained the outcome of his travels.

During the interview Ayatollah Khalkhali gave his views on the renewed activities by the feudalists in Gonbad and several northern provincial towns; the American plot to [have Iran] send an investigative delegation to [Libya to inquire into the death of] the Imam Musa as-Sadr; the recent aggression by Iraq, and the rumor of the martyrdom of Seyyed Muhammad Baqir as-Sadr.

Question: What was the nature of your mediation between Libya and the PLO? And what was the outcome of your visits to the Arab countries?

Ayatollah Khalkhali: I must make the preliminary remark that I earnestly and resolutely support the unity of the Islamic countries, and on this basis I held detailed talks last month in the United Arab Emirates with the rulers of Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Ra's al-Khaymah. At that time I encountered difficulties created by Foreign Minister Ebrahim Yazdi [as published], who was preventing the talks from reaching a useful conclusion, but since I deem unity and unity of expression among Islamic countries to be an obligatory duty, I will pursue this principle; and it was to this end that my second visit to Libya, Algeria, Syria and Lebanon took place, since I believe that these fictitious boundaries and borders which imperialism and Zionism have produced must be done away with, Islam is our law and the Islamic countries are the great homeland of all Muslims. With unity of expression, all the myths of international imperialism and world-devouring Zionism will collapse. The way is prepared for Islamic unity. I saw with my own eyes, and I told the Imam Khomeyni, that the Imam Khomeyni is not only the leader of Iran, but above and beyond this he is the inspirer, the motivator and mobilizer of all classes of people in both Arab and non-Arab Islamic lands.

Mediation Between Libya and PLO

[Khalkhali] I have tried hard to act as mediator between Libya and the PLO, and Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and Abu 'Ammar (Yasir 'Arafat), in order to eliminate recrimination and rancor. I told them both: "The difference which exists between you is that between two brothers, not between friend and foe." I raised this matter with His Excellency Hafiz al-Asad, honored president of Syria, and I insisted that they resolve the problem through my intermediacy. They immediately invited Yasir 'Arafat to Syria, and as a result of the talks held it was decided that the gentlemen should meet Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in Libya. I thank God my efforts bore fruit and I hope that the differences between the brothers will disappear one after the other so that with the military, economic and political means at the disposal of the Muslims the aggressive base of the United States--the puppet Israel--will be destroyed as soon as possible.

Except through unity of expression, there is no way in which the refugee nation of Palestine may return to its homeland and territory, its olive groves and vineyards, its own life. What complicates the issue are the mysterious, bloodstained hands, or the lack of expertise, which prevent this unity of expression being transplanted into action. At particular times these raise problems and block this Islamic, national unity inspired by God and the prophet; and only God knows what services they render the United States. I told the imam that it was not right for a delegation from Iran to go [to Libya] to investigate the disappearance or death of the Imam Musa as-Sadr. He said: "This delegation is not going on my behalf"--and it would appear that the delegation will not now go.

Great Strife in Gonbad

Question: The governor and the president of the Revolution Court of Tabriz, who have visited Gonbad, have stated that in spite of the unrest and the discussions held, nothing has been done so far in Gonbad and the feudalists' land has not been confiscated. What did you accomplish there and what is your view of this particular issue?

Ayatollah Khalkhali: I confiscated all the land belonging to the feudalists of the region, but the necessary followup action by the government is the appointment of supervisors to take charge of the feudalists' modern and mechanized agriculture. Unfortunately, this has still not taken place and in spite of all the promises by the government and the president of the republic, not a single dinar has so far been paid for house construction. I warn the government: If the government does not pursue the matter seriously, there may be another great disturbance.

ROULEAU INTERVIEWS TUDEH PARTY GENERAL SECRETARY

LD221225 Paris LE MONDE in French 18 Apr 80 p 5

[Eric Rouleau interview with Iran Tudeh Party General Secretary Nureddin Kianuri in Tehran: "Iranian Revolution Is Threatened"--date of interview not specified]

[Text] Tehran--"The Iranian Revolution is threatened: The U.S. imperialists and Iranian reactionaries are joining forces to destroy the republic; terrible trials await us." Tudeh Party General Secretary Nureddin Kianuri listed the reasons for his anxiety, which is due as much to the "plots hatched by U.S. imperialism and its allies" as to the weaknesses inherent in theTehran regime.

Mr Kianuri has a modest office, dominated by a portrait of Lenin, in the party headquarters--a 4-story building in downtown Tehran which swarms with busy "cadres." The walls are covered with maps of Iran and photographs bearing witness to the atrocities committed under the monarchy. The communist leader is around 60 years old with graying hair framing a broad forehead, agile and energetic, and he has the reputation of having inexhaustible energy and an exceptional talent for organization. After 30 years of secret activity, the Tudeh Party has not regained the popularity it had in the fifties. However, in a few months he has not only succeeded in having the party legalized but has carved out a relatively advantageous position on the political scene.

Posters and banners bearing party slogans cover the walls of Tehran. A daily newspaper, several weeklies aimed mainly at schoolchildren, students and workers, an "ideological" monthly, pamphlets, Marxist works and Mr Kianuri's speeches recorded on cassettes are distributed by party members in the streets, at the gates of schools, enterprises and state administration buildings. The party's candidates won some 100,000 votes in Tehran in the first round of the parliamentary elections in mid-March.

An "Ultraorthodox" Party

Tudeh Party central organ MARDOM has lost its initial timidity. It polemizes with the clerical newspapers, although in prudently polite terms.

It does not spare the members of the government or of the Revolution Council. It denounces election fraud, criticizes the running of the institutions, the Islamic committees and the Pasadaran (the regime's militia) but always in "a constructive spirit." The tone is more aggressive when MARDOM attacks President Bani-Sadr--its favorite target after Foreign Minister Sadeq Qotbzadeh, who are both accused of playing into imperialism's hands, probably unintentionally.

Mr Kianuri has a valuable advantage in a country in which the clergy predominates: He is the grandson of Ayatollah (Faz'ollah Nuri) who was executed in 1907 by secular revolutionaries and whose memory is venerated in the Islamic Republic. It is claimed that because of this he has preferential although necessarily ambiguous relations with important religious leaders. He says that he is a fervent supporter of "Imam Khomeyni's line." That does not prevent MARDOM from widely criticizing the revolution guide's statements when they do not correspond with the views of the Tudeh Party--one of the most "orthodox" communist parties in the world (which regards Eurocommunism as an abominable heresy, for instance).

You would search the Tudeh Party central organ in vain for any trace of the passages in the imam's recent "message to the nation" in which he denounced both "international communism" and the "brutal aggression" of the "Eastern plunderers" against Afghanistan. What does Mr Kianuri think of these judgments?

"Imam Khomeyni has his opinion and we have ours on the fraternal aid supplied by the USSR to the Afghan people," he replied in French, adding: "However, it is necessary to understand the context in which the imam was led to make such statements. In our view two important factors contributed to this: his serious heart complaint which had cut him off from the daily political situation and the election of Mr Bani-Sadr as president of the republic--a man whose profound anticommunist and anti-Soviet convictions are well known."

"Bani-Sadr Has Fallen Into a Trap"

[Question] Are you suggesting that Mr Bani-Sadr imposed his will on the imam?

[Answer] No, but the imam was given misleading information and arguments which led him to believe that a vigorous denunciation of the USSR's communism would finally persuade the United States to back the former shah's extradition. The price seemed negligible compared with the fantastic victory which the Iranian people would have won. Just imagine the former sovereign appearing before a revolutionary court in Tehran!

However, the imam had not been informed of the "package deal" concluded between the American and some religious and secular Iranian leaders under cover of the events in Afghanistan. Under the terms of this agreement, drawn up under the auspices of UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, Iran promised in particular to mount a campaign against the USSR and to transfer the hostages to the government's care before releasing them. In exchange for this Washington would admit its crimes in Iran and would not oppose the shah's extradition. In short it was atrap into which Mr Bani-Sadr and his associates fell owing to the fact that their illusions are as great as their political inexperience.

They should have understood that the United States would never, never allow the former shah to be handed over to Iran. Such a concession on their part would have undermined their world strategy and endangered the network of dictatorships which they maintain throughout the world. It was thanks to a veritable sixth sense that Imam Khomeyni torpedoed the scenario drawn up by the combined efforts of Carter, Brzezinski, Waldheim and the CIA. When the trick failed the Americans resorted to sanctions and plots.

[Question] Do you not think that the United States has the right to demand the release of diplomats detained in violation of international laws? Is it in keeping with the communist movement's traditions to justify terrorism?

[Answer] Of course we condemn terrorism, however, no principle is absolute and eternal. In this particular case, right from the start, before Imam Khomeyni and the other parties, we supported the occupation of the U.S. Embassy and the arrest of the so-called diplomats who were engaged not only in espionage--a relatively benign practice since it is common in foreign embassies--but also and above all in subversive and counterrevolutionary activities, as the documents seized in the embassy's secret archives clearly show. They should be put on trial as defendants or witnesses so that world opinion will realize the crimes that the United States committed in our country. The West is worried about the fate of 50 detainees who are well-treated and in perfect health, but there were few who paid any attention to the 30 million Iranians held hostage for 30 years by the United States....

[Question] The greatest possible publicity has been given to the Iranian's grievances against the United States. What more do you want for the hostages to be released?

[Answer] All's fair in love and war. We are taking advantage of this chink in the armor to obtain concessions from the Americans. This is a crucial advantage, a considerable means of pressure which we will keep....

Preventing Normalization With United States

[Question] Why, since you admit that the United States will never hand over the shah? [question ends]

Mr Kianuri said with a malicious smile: "As long as we keep the hostages we will prevent the normalization of relations with the United States about which some Iranian politicians are dreaming...."

[Question] Some people claim that the "Islamic students" holding the U.S. diplomats are influenced or manipulated by the Tudeh Party. What do you think of that? [question ends]

"That is absolutely ridiculous!" the communist leader exclaimed with a roar of laughter. "The students refuse any contact with us and go so far as to exclude MARDOM journalists from their press conferences on the pretext that our newspaper's circulation (40,000 copies) is not high enough. However, the representatives of JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI [Islamic Republican Party organ--Rouleau note], which has half our readership, have free access to the U.S. Embassy. It is well known that the students have constant contacts with Imam Khomeyni's entourage and with the anti-imperialist theologians from the Qom theological school, directly or via Hojjat ol-Eslam Kho'ini, one of this school's leading figures.

The confusion, if there is confusion, stems from the fact that the Tudeh Party and the "Islamic students," both follow the imam's anti-imperialist line...."

[Question] Do you have contacts with Hojjat ol-Eslam Kho'ini?

[Answer] No, but we do have contacts with other religious leaders. We debate with them either verbally or in writing. Some of them take our views and analyses into account. Of course, we do differ on some points. There is still some anticommunist even among the most strongly anti-imperialist religious leaders. However, that should not pose an obstacle to possible cooperation. The anticommunism of An-Nasir, Al-Qadhdhafi, Boumediene and other Third World leaders did not prevent them from following a progressive and revolutionary policy.

Nonetheless the clergy is not a homogenous body. It embraces a wide range of opinions, including highly reactionary opinions.

[Question] However, Imam Khomeyni recently defended the entire clergy by calling on the population not to listen to those who accuse the religious leaders of being reactionaries....

[Answer] The imam had to do that. The harmful role being played by certain elements within the revolutionary institutions--the Islamic committees, the pasdaran, the foundation for the poor and so forth--is angering the people and is hence likely to discredit the whole clergy and the political parties which have emerged from it, such as the Islamic Republican Party. That is why the imam, while defending the clergy, is demanding a fundamental purge of all the republic's institutions. [answer ends]

Iraq--"Imperialism's Accomplice"

This purge is "urgent" in view of the growing pressures from the United States and "possibly from Europe and Japan," and of the spread of counterrevolutionary activities in Iran itself, the Tudeh Party general secretary said. According to him Iraq, "accomplice of U.S. imperialism," is responsible for the wave of attacks on oil installations and is stirring up civil war in Kordestan. In this connection he accused "reactionary" Kurdish groups such as Rastegari (tribal movement) and Komala (Maoist movement), and "some officials of the Islamic Republic and the army," of launching "provocations" to prevent a peaceful settlement of the Kurdish problem.

"The imperialist plot is only starting and we expect very serious trouble, including military attacks," he added.

To counter these dangers the Tudeh Party advocates breaking off all remaining ties with the United States, the "destruction of the socioeconomic bases of the colonial system," by nationalizing foreign trade in particular, and an end to anticommunist and anti-Soviet propaganda. The implementation of this policy, Mr Kianuri continued, would only be possible if a "broad popular and anti-imperialist front" of all forces, religious and secular, were to be formed. Is this just a dream? "No," the communist leader replied, "a vitally important objective...."

CRUDE OIL SUPPLY TO ROMANIA INCREASED

LD231122 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 23 Apr 80

[Text] An Oil Ministry spokesman reported today that following a meeting some time ago between a Romanian trade delegation led by the deputy trade minister of that country and Mo'infar, oil minister of the Iranian Islamic Republic, concerning supplying an additional quantity of crude oil required by Romania, Romanian oil officials came to Iran last week and the Iranian Oil Ministry agreed to sell to that country some of that country's additional oil requirement, amounting to approximately 20 percent of the quantity of oil currently delivered to that country. An agreement to this effect was signed at the NIOC last Sunday.

As a result, Iran's oil exports to Romania have now increased to 100,000 barrels daily. It should be explained that this agreement is based on Iran's new crude oil price.

OFFICIALS BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS WITH GDR

LD232024 Tehran in English to Europe 1830 GMT 23 Apr 80

[Text] According to PARS NEWS AGENCY, Mr Fattahi, [word indistinct] deputy minister of commerce (?who) is heading Iran's delegation to East Germany, yesterday started negotiations with the East German authorities. The Iranian delegation (?will) negotiate with [words indistinct] (?ministries) and other top-ranking officials [words indistinct] in East Germany. This delegation has already negotiated with the ministries of planning [word indistinct] and the light, heavy, metal and mineral industries in East Germany in order to conclude an agreement for long-term collaboration. The same report says that the East German officials have announced their (?full preparation) for any cooperation with Iran to provide many articles, especially medicines, medical instruments, chemical products, the raw materials for industry, foodstuffs, and to provide technical services.

According to PARS NEWS AGENCY, it is expected that the Iranian delegation, during its stay in East Germany, in addition to (?those) long-term agreements, will also sign some agreements to [word indistinct] certain articles required by Iran immediately.

LAR NATIONAL MOBILIZATION CENTER OPENS 20 APR

GF221342 Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1400 GMT 21 Apr 80

[Text] The Lar national mobilization center began operating yesterday, all those individuals interested in receiving practical and theoretical military training can register at the Lar national mobilization center from 1700 until 1900 daily. The national mobilization center is located at [words indistinct].

CANADIAN CURTAILMENT OF RELATIONS 'LARGELY SYMBOLIC'

LD241134 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 24 Apr 80

[Text] According to PARS, simultaneously with the arrival of the U.S. secretary of state in Ottawa this morning, the Iran charge d'affaires to that country was summoned to the Ministry for External Affairs to announce that Canada has adopted the following decisions regarding Iran: To reduce the Iranian diplomatic staff in Ottawa to one charge d'affaires; to give up issuing visas to Iranian students; to cease delivering arms and issuing export credit to Iran; to prohibit oil companies from purchasing Iranian oil; to recommend to Canadian firms not to conclude fresh contracts with Iran other than those they already have.

I should add that, apart from the first part of these measures, the remainder are automatically irrelevant because no Canadian oil company or arms manufacturing firm has any contract with Iran as all the companies concerned are American, and that commercial relations between the two countries are in practice confined to a number of production and construction projects, which are in abeyance because of the bankruptcy of the Canadian firms. Thus, the Canadian move is largely a symbolic one.

TEHRAN REPORTS BRITISH AMBASSADOR'S RECALL FOR CONSULTATIONS

LD221935 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1716 GMT 22 Apr 80

[Text] According to the PARS NEWS AGENCY, the British Embassy in Tehran announced today that the British ambassador to the Iranian Islamic Republic, who has been recalled to London by the British Foreign Office for consultations, left Tehran this morning.

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS REPORTED ESTABLISHED WITH PDRY

LD231142 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0956 GMT 23 Apr 80

[Text] The spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iran has told the central news bureau: The Islamic Republic of Iran and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen have agreed to establish diplomatic relations from today, Wednesday, 23 April.

A joint statement issued in Tehran and Aden simultaneously says: The establishment of diplomatic relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the PDRY is inspired by historical, cultural and religious ties between the two Muslim brother nations of Iran and Yemen. And, as one of the achievements of the glorious Islamic revolution of Iran is to establish friendly relations with all the oppressed nations of the world, in particular with the Muslim nations of the region, the governments of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the PDRY decided to establish and develop diplomatic relations within the framework of the UN Charter and with the aim of cooperation between the two nations to spread understanding and peaceful coexistence, the strengthening of world peace and social justice by the rejection of any kind of colonialism, despotism and exploitation and the fight against the universal imperialism and Zionism and against any violation or expansionism by other powers, while observing the principle of avoiding any intervention in the internal affairs of each other.

The governments of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the PDRY are certain that the expansion of political, economic and cultural relations between the two brother nations will have a major impact on the efforts and development of the two countries and other countries of the region. And it will also be considered an important step in rejecting any alien hegemony in the region.

CHIEF PROSECUTOR ISSUES STATEMENT ON 'ZIONIST AGENTS'

LD231942 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Apr 80

[Text] According to the central news unit, the public relations office of the chief prosecutor of the Islamic Republic of Iran has issued the following statement in connection with the trial of two Zionist agents:

The trial of Eshaq Borukhim and Ebrahim Borukhim will soon start at the Islamic Revolution Court of the center [Tehran]. They are accused of plundering public funds by way of receiving loans; transferring foreign currency abroad during the country's sensitive periods; creating political centers for Zionist and CIA agents; having close ties with Pahlavi elements; denying workers their rights and insulting them.

Those who have any complaints against or have any testimonies regarding the above-mentioned are asked to be present at the Islamic revolution court of the center, Evin Prison, on Tuesday, 29 April 1980.

JAPANESE COMPANY WARNED OVER PETROCHEMICAL PROJECT

LD232106 Tehran in English to Europe 1830 GMT 23 Apr 80

[Text] PARS NEWS AGENCY reports that an authorized official of the National Iranian Oil Company announced that the Mitsui Company of Japan which is the partner of Iran in a petrochemical project has been severely warned that new decisions will be taken on this company if they do not implement their conventional [as heard] undertakings. The same official of the National Iranian Oil Company said unfortunately activities on the plan of Iran's petrochemical complex do not have the required funds, and explained that the Japanese do not take the (?treaty seriously). According to the same official, the Irano-Japanese petrochemical project is consuming a cost of about $500,000 a day, and that Iranian [word indistinct] have suffered extensive losses.

AFGHAN SOCIETY REPORTS ON CLASHES WITH USSR TROOPS

JN201827 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 20 Apr 80

[Text] The Islamic Society of Afghanistan declared today that its revolutionaries fought a fierce battle against the Soviet forces in the city of Herat yesterday. Three tanks were destroyed and 300 Soviet soldiers were killed.

The Islamic Society of Afghanistan also declared that its fighters killed a Soviet colonel and 100 soldiers last week.

Further on 'Clashes'

JN211824 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 21 Apr 80

[Text] The Islamic Society of Afghanistan has stated that during the clashes which took place between the society's mojahedin and Soviet forces in the Qandahar area during the last 2 days, the mojahedin destroyed 3 Soviet tanks and killed 300 Soviet soldiers.

The Islamic Society of Afghanistan also added that its mojahedin also killed 1 Soviet colonel and 100 Soviet soldiers in (Waid Matalkhair).

Another Islamic Society of Afghanistan report has stated that the mojahedin captured large quantities of weapons in an attack they launched against a border post inside the Soviet territories.

Clashes between the Afghan mojahedin and Soviet forces also took place in the (Zandajan) district. In the clashes, 30 Soviet soldiers were killed and 1 Muslim child and woman were martyred.

Reports of Deaths

JN231646 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Apr 80

[Text] An Afghan Muslim revolutionary spokesman today announced that Soviet forces, reinforced with tanks, helicopters and heavy machine guns, killed a large number of unarmed civilians. Also killed were 11 Muslim revolutionaries in the province of Laghman in northern Afghanistan. The spokesman also said that most of the losses resulted from Soviet air raids.

ARABIAN PENINSULA GROUP HOLDS TEHRAN PRESS CONFERENCE

JN210900 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 21 Apr 80

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Al Sa'ud Family Pays Money to the Revolution's Enemies in Kordestan," the newspaper JOMHURI-YE ISLAMI publishes a report on a press conference held by members of the Islamic revolution organization in the Arabian Peninsula. The conference was attended by a number of local and foreign correspondents.

The paper says: The press conference was held at the Revolution Guards public relations office in Tehran. The visiting delegation's spokesman made a speech in which he discussed in detail the activities of the Islamic revolution organization in the Arabian Peninsula. He revealed the role played by the ruling Saudi family in supporting forces that are hostile to the Islamic revolution in Iran.

Commenting on the current situation in the Arabian Peninsula, the spokesman said: Saudi oil exports amounted to 14 million barrels a day after the victory of the Islamic revolution. He added that 75 percent of the Saudi oil revenues go to U.S. imperialists. The Islam of the Saudi family serves U.S. imperialist interests.

The spokesman revealed that the deposed shah's sister has officially asked the Saudi family to provide Bakhtiar with the necessary aid and to allow him to live in Saudi Arabia, so that he can lead operations for the enemies of the Islamic revolution from there. The Saudi family gives large amounts of money to elements that are hostile to the Islamic revolution in Iran.

Commenting on the internal situation in Saudi Arabia, the spokesman of the Islamic revolution organization in the Arabian Peninsula said: Saudi oil revenues are estimated at $400 million daily. Despite this, poverty and hunger are spreading rapidly among the oppressed masses and the hygienic situation is much worse than that of the African countries.

The spokesman said that there is a conspiracy being implemented by the Saudi regime, in cooperation with the Ba'thist regime in Iraq, against the Islamic revolution in Iran. He said that the U.S. joint army staff commander [as heard] has visited both Saudi Arabia and Iraq to work out aggressive plots against Iran and that the rapprochement between the two countries became clear when the Ba'thist regime began confronting the Islamic revolution in Iran.

The spokesman said: We have definite information that a member of the so-called Arabistan Liberation Organization visited Saudi Arabia and held talks with its shaykhs. We also have information from the Saudi Defense Ministry that the ruling family in Saudi Arabia is providing the indivuduals who are fighting in Kordestan with large amounts of money.

ARABIAN PENINSULA ORGANIZATION CABLES KHOMEYNI ON AS-SADR

JN231205 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0852 GMT 23 Apr 80

[Text of cable by the Islamic revolution organization in the Arabian Peninsula to Ayatollah Khomeyni on "martyrdom" of Ayatollah Seyyed Muhammad Baqir as-Sadr--date not specified]

[Text] In the name of God, the smasher of tyrants. To the imam of the nation and the leader of the oppressed, Ayatollah Khomeni, may God protect him and grant him long life.

We have received with great pain and sorrow the news of the martyrdom of the great Muslim authority, Mujahid Ayatollah Baqir as-Sadr, may God have mercy on his soul. We offer you our sincere condolences on this great loss and ask God almighty to grant patience to us and long life to you.

If this act, the treacherous At-Tikriti clique believes that it will stifle one of the voices of truth, then it will be disappointed. The martyr's blood will not dry but will regenerate every day. O Imam, we pledge to you that we will act and struggle to defeat this corrupt clique and all other despotic forces. God will certainly aid those who aid his cause [Koranic verse].

[Signed] The Islamic Revolution Organization in the Arabian Peninsula.

NVOI COMMENTS ON INTERNATIONAL, DOMESTIC ISSUES

Olympics Boycott Decision Criticized

TA162037 [Editorial Report] (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1730 GMT 16 Apr 80

[Unattributed commentary: "A Decision that Cannot Be Justified"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: The report regarding our country's nonparticipation in the Moscow Olympic games has aroused a just concern among Iran's cultural and athletic society. The concern is not only because sport is a cultural matter, but also because healthy recreation is among the necessities of the present world and a means of consolidating friendship among nations.

This concern arises primarily because the fact cannot be justified to the Iranian nation and all the true forces of the revolution and our youth that for whatever reason the policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran has been coordinated with the policy of world-devouring U.S. imperialism in this respect. We are all aware that Carter and his administration have brought forth the issue of boycotting the Moscow Olympic games merely to intensify international tension s and to justify their aggressive policy toward the Iranian Revolution and Afghanistan's democratic changes.

Carter has asked all his Western allies and also the regimes associated with U.S. imperialism to boycott participation in the Moscow Olympic games by following the policy of the United States. It is quite (?obvious) why the leaders of countries such as As-Sadat in Egypt have yielded to degradation, disgrace and blind obedience to Carter's guidelines and have boycotted participation in the Moscow Olympic games despite the inclinations of the people of Egypt. However, what reason officials of our country's Islamic Republic show for such a decision.

Mr Hasan Shah Hosseyni, our country's chairman of the Olympic committee and head of the sports organization has said that he has requested the Revolution Council of the Islamic Republic of Iran to reconsider its decision in boycotting the Moscow Olympic games, and he has expressed the hope that this demand will be considered and confirmed by the Revolution Council. The Iranian people, our youth, our sportsmen, and all those interested in the development of cultural relations between the world's nations and peoples are also hopeful that the Revolution Council will consider this problem, namely participation in the Moscow Olympic games--which is a cultural matter and of interest to the youth of our homeland and the world--with farsightedness and wisdom.

The taking of decisions within the domestic framework and international (?policy) which aid in fulfilling the aims of world-devouring U.S. imperialism are not only beneath the dignity of the Iranian Revolution and contrary to its natural aims, but in fact pleases and cheers Iran's enemies. Perhaps there are certain individuals who want, through this means--to depict themselves as the executioners of the so-called policy of "neither the East nor the West," which these days is in vogue in our country and has been transformed into the day's fashion for certain circles. However, even these gentlemen by resorting to such measures are in fact taking steps which are contrary to their assertions. In this case the problem not only can no longer be about "neither the East nor the West," but it is pursuing of the policy of the West and the policy of plundering America which is the Iranian nation's enemy No one.

Our nation needs the expansion of healthy cultural relations, including sports relations, with all countries and the nations of the world. It is not clear in what way this act, namely the boycott of the Moscow Olympic games, which the United States has innovated, can be placed within the framework of Iran's national and Islamic policy.

(?We), like all those who are interested in the expansion of cultural relations with the [word indistinct] nation and all those who are interested in sports and healthy recreation, are hopeful that in conditions where many of the Western countries allied with the United States have not been prepared to accept and tolerate Carter's demand in connection with boycotting the Moscow Olympic games. Responsible officials, particularly the revolution Council of our Islamic republic, will consider this important problem for the youth of our society with more foresigntedness and a deeper sense of reality. One should not take an action, which in the best of circumstances would lead to the assumption that the policy of our country is in the same line with the policy of the enemies of the revolution and the plundering America.

U.S. Imperialism

TA180832 [Editorial Report] (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 17 April broadcast two commentaries. The first, entitled "Which Danger Is Threatening Our Independence and Freedom" says: The logical answer of the imam to Pope John Paul II has, on the one hand, doubled the joy of the true followers of the imam's path and, on the other hand, was a serious threat to all the liberals and compromisers who occupy important posts and resort to ill-considered actions in order to restore diplomatic relations with the United States.

The true followers of the imam's path, under his guidance, are making efforts to eradicate all the remnants of U.S. Imperialism from Iran and are fighting the Iranian hirelings of U.S. imperialism. Opposite this group of true followers stands an obvious group of counterrevolutionaries who are former regime supporters, SAVAKists, big landlords and hirelings of U.S. imperialism and Zionism. These elements, while occupying important posts in the army or government, try to damage the revolutionary gains.

While the true Iranians are overjoyed by the severence of diplomatic relations with the United States, these elements whose very lives depend on relations with the world-devouring United States are worried.

The imam has often said that the real danger threatening Iran is U.S. imperialism and that the Iranian nation will welcome any difficulties arising from the break in diplomatic relations. The Iranian nation will not allow the restoration of those dismal times, will safeguard its revolutionary gains at the price of its life and will build an independent, prosperous Iran.

The second commentary, entitled "Let Us Not Deprive the Youth of Participating in World Cultural Meetings," says: The national democratic circles in Iran consider the Iranian conparticipation in the Moscow Olympic games as a policy in contradiction with the imam's anti-American statements. For some time now, Carter has been using the question of the Olympic games as a means for (?hindering) detente. Iran had previously declared that it would not obey U.S. imperialism and would participate in the Moscow Olympic games. But now Iranian officials have changed their minds. This is a revision not worthy of the Iranian nation's revolution. If politics and sport are not linked, then why should not the Iranian sportsmen participate in the Olympic games? If they are linked, then why should Iran not be among the majority of nations that will participate, instead of joining the few, like Egypt and Israel, who blindly obey the United States?

Today all of Iran's actions should be directed against U.S. imperialism, and it should not make decisions that will only benefit its enemies, namely U.S. imperialism. The questions of participating in the Olympic games is only a cultural and sportive event, but Carter is trying [words indistinct]. So the Iranian nation must have an independent policy regarding this matter and not help the materialization of U.S. imperialist schemes.

University Problems

TA212026 [Editorial Report](Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 21 April broadcast two commentaries. The first, entitled "Who Do [word indistinct] Convulsions Benefit" says: Regarding the events in the universities and institutions of higher education, President Bani-Sadr has demanded that the Iranian nation observe order and evacuate the streets surrounding these institutions. The disturbances in the institutions of higher education and the fact that students who call themselves members of the organization of Muslim students have seized these places multiply convulsions both in the universities and in the country. The Revolutionary Council has issued a statement ragarding this matter and has warned different political groups, particularly leftwing groups, to evacuate their belongings from these institutions. If the situation had to come to this, then why did not responsible officials take necessary measures beforehand? Why did they not resolve these matters by political discussions? This decision of the Revolutionary Council is a hasty one. The statement shows that the attitude of the responsible officials regarding the political groups true to the revolution and especially the leftist groups is contrary to the expectations of the nation. The enemies of the revolution are ready to create disturbances in every part of the country and do not wait for ultimatums. Who will benefit from all these actions except U.S. Imperialism and the enemies of the revolution.

The second commentary entitled "The Eternal Power of Unity" repeats the first commentary.

U.S. Expansionism

TA222020 [Editorial Report] (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 22 April broadcast two commentaries. The first, entitled "The Iranian Nation Will Defend Its Freedom and Independence to Its Last Strength," says: Carter's decision to expropriate $8 million of Iranian deposits in U.S. banks for providing the cost of war against Iran has discredited world-devouring imperialism in the eyes of the world. The imam has very rightly congratulated the nation for the break in diplomatic relations between Iran and the United States due to the fact that the relationship between the two countries was always one of oppressor and oppressed. From World War II to the present, U.S. imperialism has always tried to impose its imperialist hegemony on Iran. At the end of World War II, U.S. imperialism along with British colonialism planned to divide Iran into spheres of influence, but this imperialist plan was thwarted thanks to the strong opposition of the Soviet Union. Despite this defeat, the United States did not resist any opportunity to infiltrate into the most sensitive military and state circles and imposed the ousted shah on Iran after having overthrown thelegal government of Mossadeq. From that time on, U.S. imperialism began plundering Iran's wealth and turned the ousted shah into the gendarme of the region. So, Carter's declaration that he will use Iran's financial deposits in U.S. banks for defraying the cost of its great forces based in the Arabian Sea and the Persian Gulf is the continuation of this plunderous policy. What other name can be given to all this brigandage and aggression? The answer of the Iranian nation to all this is that it will fight for its freedom to the last person.

The second commentary entitled "We Have To Abstain From Fratricide" says: A short time ago, the Revolutionary Council made some alterations in the draft regarding the Kurds in Kurdestan, but responsible officials refuse to enlighten the public. These alterations involve the Kurdish people putting down arms. Such an attitude to an acute problem of our nation will increase convulsions. The Kurdish question is a complicated one, and the responsible officials must resolve it in a peaceful way.

U.S. imperialism is threatening Iran with military aggression and counterrevolution is trying to damage the Iranian revolution. Thus, all true revolutionary forces must unite against all these threats and aggressions. During the corrupt Pahlavi reign, the Kurdish people struggled to obtain their national rights, while always defending Iran's independence and territorial integrity and actively participating in the Iranian revolution. Now the Kurdish people want to obtain recognition of their national rights. This is their right and it must be officially recognized. In Kurdestan the danger of fratricide is increasing every moment. This matter has increased the anxiety of the Iranian nation. Tanks, war and fratricide will not solve this problem, but may drive away the noble Kurdish forces from the Iranian revolution--a matter that the enemies of the Iranian revolution desire.

The Iranian nation must be able to judge the resolution regarding the Kurdish question. The people must participate in the destiny of their country. Regarding the Kurdish question, there must be a policy that leaves room for counterrevolutionary activities, today more than at any time before our country is in need of unity and solidarity, and the officials have to show an interest in solving nationality problems. All the peoples of our nation should unite under the leadership of the imam to thwart imperialist plots.

Peaceful Solution for Kordestan

TA221235 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Azerbaijani to Iran 1745 GMT 19 Apr 80

[Unattributed commentary: "The Demand of True Kurdish Revolutionaries is the Demand of All Our Peoples"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: Our country's struggling people have taken a stand in the forefront of the struggle against U.S. imperialism. Our nation is preparing itself to repulse U.S. imperialism's threats and interferences and direct or indirect aggressions. The current sensitive and important situation requires that all the peoples and all the revolutionary and military forces and all the resources of our country are transformed into a single force, into a single crushing fist, directed against imperialism headed by U.S. imperialism and against domestic counterrevolutionaries. Our country is now being threatened both by U.S. imperialism and by counterrevolution at home and abroad. This is a real danger which cannot be ignored. At this sensitive juncture when the revolution and its achievements are being threatened, mobilization of all efforts and all national forces with the aim of neutralizing this danger and crushing all the covert and overt plots by Iran's enemies is dictated by the country's national interests and the interests of the revolution.

The former regime had turned the whole country into a big prison for its people--especially for the ethnic communities. It is an undeniable fact that the former regime collapsed as a result of a general struggle with the cooperation of all the peoples of Iran, so naturally, ethnic minorities also want to benefit from the revolution's gains and to enjoy ethnic rights. Various difficulties were encountered with regard to the solution of this problem in the period following the triumph of the revolution. Nevertheless, it should be admitted that both the state authorities and the representatives of the Kurdish people have reached the correct conclusion that the Kurdish issue cannot be solved by the use of tanks and guns or through fighting. As was stated by the imam, it can only be solved by eliminating all remnants of ethnic oppression and by recognizing our Kurdish brothers' national rights. Only in this way can the revolution's interests be served. In his historic statement, Imam Khomeyni set out the guidelines for the solution of the Kordestan problem. It is the duty of the Iranian authorities to implement the directives of Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution.

On various occasions the Kurdish people's leaders have stated loyally and sincerely that they want the recognition of the Kurdish rights and the solution of the Kordestan issue within the framework of a single united Iran. In view of the threat posed by U.S. imperialism, the Kurdistan people's current representatives have clearly announced that the Kurdish people are prepared to make all the sacrifices needed for the preservation of the independence and territorial integrity of Iran and for repulsing the aggressions of U.S. imperialism and reaction and for eliminating foreign provocations on our country's western frontier.

Unfortunately, we are currently observing that certain circles in our country are trying to prevent the peaceful solution of the Kordestan issue and to create the conditions for fresh bloody clashes in that part of our homeland. Moreover, in Kordestan too there are antirevolutionary circles which, helped by U.S. imperialism, are trying to provoke a fratricidal struggle. In our view both these circles are controlled by the CIA, which wants to achieve its aims by fishing in troubled waters.

We must be vigilant to prevent Kordestan from being transformed into a battlegpound. Otherwise the way will be opened to the expansion of counterrevolutionary activities and to transforming Kordestan into the center of counterrevolution to enable intervention by foreign enemies. We want to especially address ourselves to responsible authorities and to ask them to talk and act with a greater sense of responsibility. They should refrain from acts likely to diminish the people's support for the revolution. Recently it was claimed that Kurds were receiving arms from Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia. Kurdish Democratic Party leader Mr Qasemlu has denied this and said that it is totally untrue. The aim of these claims and lies is both to prevent the recognition of rights of ethnic minorities and also to prepare the ground for incitements in Kordestan. Throughout history the Kurdish people have supported Iran's territorial integrity; and today they are also prepared to make all the sacrifices needed for the defense of the country against any aggression.

It is time to embark on the peaceful solution of this problem with loyalty and sincerity. All the Kurdish people want is their ethnic rights within the framework of a united single Iran. These rights should be recognized officially.

Further on Kordestan

TA231558 [Editorial Report] Clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 22 April carries a commentary entitled: "We Have To Abstain From Fratricide" which is virtually identical to the above commentary except for the following passages:

The commentary begins: "As you are aware, some time ago the Revolution Council ratified with certain amendments the proposed draft of the Kurds with respect to resolving the Kordestan problem. However, responsible officials are refraining from announcing the text of this draft and they have made its announcement subject to the laying down of arms by the Kurdish people. Such an attitude toward one of the country's acute and urgent problems is in fact tantamount to aiding the intensification of tensions in the country."

It also states: "As has been stated, certain decisions have been taken by the Revolution Council in this connection, but unfortunately their announcement has been withheld. The consequence is this self-same deplorable situation where in a corner of our homeland, namely in Kordestan, it has resulted in war and fratricide. As a result of the obstinacy and stubbornness of a number of officials the danger of fratricide increases every moment. The flames of war are fanned further. The blood of our compatriots is spilled on the ground in Kordestan, and this fact has justly caused the concern of all the people of our homeland."

The commentary ends: "The decree of the Islamic Revolution Council of our homeland with regard to the Kordestan problem should be brought to the attention of the entire Iranian nation. By being informed about this decree the Iranian nation must make its judgment regarding it."

Situation in Universities

TA231910 [Editorial Report] (Clandestine) national Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 23 April broadcast two commentaries. The first, which is untitled, says: The situation in the universities and institutions of higher learning of our country is still tense, not normal and a cause for concern. We are all aware that the university was always the stronghold of resistance of our nation against the former regime, and the university people showed sacrifices at all times. Following the revolution's victory the universities were transformed into the center of political and social discussions not only for the students but also for the entire Iranian nation.

There is no party or revolutionary organization committed to the nation and the revolution which is not concerned about the events of our country's universities. Most of the universities have been closed and unfortunately as a result of the recent events and clashes a number of our youth have been killed and injured. The authorities are not using revolutionary means in order to implement the cultural revolution proposed by Imam Khomeyni. We warn that the danger of U.S. imperialism and the counterrevolution is the greatest danger to our homeland and revolution, and we should direct all forces toward foiling this danger.

The second commentary entitled "millions of farmers demand the immediate implementation of the law of land reform," says: Two months have passed since the ratification of the law of land reform and the distribution of land among Iranian farmers by the Revolution Council. However, there is still no news about the implementation of this law. We know that the ratification of the law alone does not solve any problems, and the important thing is that immediately following the ratification of this law by the Revolution Council the feudalists and big landlords openly began opposing it and put obstacles on the path of its implementation. In the meantime government officials have not taken any immediate measures to distribute the land among landless peasants. The feudalists continue their oppression and the farmers have received no response from the authorities to their many complaints.

BEHESHTI QUESTIONED ON TRADE RELATIONS, UNIVERSITY STRIFE

LD231914 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Apr 80

[Text] Ayatollah Dr Beheshti, president of the Supreme Court and member of the Revolutionn Council, held a press, radio and television conference with domestic and foreign reporters this morning and answered their questions.

Regarding the country's future oil policies he said: Our main aim is to sell less and to have more of this raw material transformed into petroleum derivatives by domestic experts; the price of these derivatives is very different from that of crude oil.

In reply to the question as to whether changing foreign trade relations in view of limitations imposed by the West lead us to dependence on the Eastern bloc, he said: This could not be called the reason for dependence: for wherever we find our required goods, at a lower price and at a higher quality, in the world free market we buy them. Therefore the change the trade relations could not be interpreted as dependence.

In reply to a question by one of the foreign reporters who asked if the Hezbollah group had been the main factor in the university clashes, Ayatollah Beheshti said: Not at all, we do not have an organization called Hezbollah. He stressed that there are millions of people who want the establishment and preservation of the Islamic regime; the incidents could be seen as clashes between a small opposition group and the nation. He said: Based on information received, the agents of Zionism and imperialism are trying to infiltrate the united ranks of thenation and disrupt the solidarity and unity between the nation and the students. Of course we know that this is nothing but a vain hope, for the nation and the students are aware and strive to safeguard unity.

The president of the Supreme Court also referred to the sanctity of freedom. He said: The Islamic Revolution of Iran, under the leadership and management of the government, wishes to safeguard basic freedoms; if certain groups have a hand in creating crises in this country, it is difficult to safeguard these freedoms during the critical times Therefore, all those who desire freedom should consider themselves responsible.

Regarding the clashes in Kordestan, Dr Beheshti said: Not only are we not against the Kurdish people, but we have always been and will always be for them. If small groups would stop plotting, we could more easily offer the Kurdish people peace and comfort.

He also said: Revolutions throughout the world have common denominatiors; for the success of these revolutions all groups are in agreement at the start, but for the construction after the success of the revolution, they do not follow the same course. The same applies to our revolution, where some of the groups were not in favor of complete severance of ties and an all-out fight against the United States. Under these circumstances, therefore, we give priority to the efforts toward the solidarity of Islamic groups; but this does not mean that we do not wish for the unison of all groups.